

OVERSEAS

Reagan envoys seek to heal rift with Peking over Taiwan

From David Bonavia
Hongkong, Jan 4

The present visit to Peking by two leading American Republicans suggests that Mr Ronald Reagan is keen to repair the political damage which his pre-election statements on the Taiwan question seemed to threaten.

Peking leaders have responded to this gesture by receiving the two unofficial envoys at the highest level. After meeting Mr Huang Hua, the Foreign Minister, they have had talks with Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Communist Party's Vice-Chairman, who is now acknowledged to be the unchallenged leader of the country.

Despite disavowals from the Reagan camp it is clear that political issues have been discussed during the present visit by Senator Theodore Stevens and Mrs Anna Chennault, the Chinese-born widow of General Clare Chennault, the founder of the famous 'Flying Tigers' unit, force which supported General Chiang Kai-shek in his fight against the Japanese.

The fact that Mrs Chennault was permitted to visit Peking at all shows the strong desire of the Chinese leaders to seek accommodations with the United States and Taiwan, rather than the confrontation which has been taking shape.

Mrs Chennault has long been sworn foe of communism and leader of the Taiwan lobby. A Congress, her visit to Peking indicates that the apparent aggressive of the Soviet Union.

The senator was speaking after he and Mrs Chennault had held two hours of talks with Mr Deng. He told the reporters at the end of a three-day visit that the Taiwan question was discussed frequently during their talks with Chinese leaders.—Reuters.

awakens memories of the wartime cooperation, patchy though it was, between the Communists and the Kuomintang against the Japanese. For several years now, Peking has been emphasizing the possibility of reconciliation.

China and Taiwan already maintain substantial trade relations—indirectly, through Hongkong visitors from Taiwan—and Taiwan seamen in difficulties are welcomed on the mainland.

The progress towards some kind of understanding of union between the mainland and the island, in the medium or long term, will depend on a long series of exploratory contacts such as those which took place in Peking at the weekend.

It is also imperative for Mr Reagan to show that he is not insensitive to China's claim that the new upgrading of American official relations with Taiwan—proposed by Mr Reagan and actually carried out last year by President Carter—need not result in anything as drastic as a crisis in Washington-Peking relations, which the Chinese would deeply regret.

Arms sales: Senator Stevens said after his talks with Mr Deng that he did not rule out eventual sales of United States arms to China.

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THE ART

Festival Ballet tightens its belt

Drastic changes in the coming year are to be announced this week, intended to overcome a deficit in the region of £100,000, they include the postponement of all new productions except for the two Ballets which are to be given at the Coliseum during April in a special Baroque anniversary programme presented jointly with English National Opera.

Geoffrey Cawley is already working on the choreography for *The Wooden Prince*, which will have designed by Philip Prowse, and Fleming Flindt will arrive shortly to mount his version of *The Miraculous Mandarin*. When they are performed together with a revival of Glen Byam Shaw's ENO staging of *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, it will, surprisingly, be the first time Festival's three stage works have ever been given in a single programme in London.

All other performances by Festival Ballet for the rest of this season, however, in London and on tour, will be confined to the most popular big-scale works in the company's repertoire. After the season of *The Macracker* now being given at the Festival Hall will come revivals of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Clash of the Titans*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Rosindade and La Sylphide*.

Plans for an extra London season at the Dominion Theatre, supplementing the company's usual seasons at the Coliseum and the Festival Hall, have had to be put off until 1982. The aim is twofold: to keep costs down and box-office income as high as possible, so as to get the company on a sound footing again.

John Field, Festival Ballet's artistic director, has already explained to the dancers that a limited repertoire is necessary for a period. He is anxious that the present retrenchment shall not be seen as a permanent change of policy.

"I believe that a ballet company which is not creative soon ceases to be a company at all," Field says, "and that we have an obligation to do something constructive with the money we are so generously given by the Arts Council and the Greater London Council. I believe that some good can come out of adversity, and that it is up to us to adapt ourselves to meet the circumstances we find ourselves in. We have only to think what we achieved during the last year to know that it can be done."

With that in mind, he intends



John Field rehearsing his company

to concentrate during the rest of this season on developing young dancers by giving them opportunities in leading roles. "I think we have a lot of young talent and it has to be given a chance. When I was in charge of the Royal Ballet touring company, I was criticized for putting on *Sleeping Beauty* during his first year. But look where he is now."

"I am very happy that Nureyev will be dancing with us. I like him. I am glad we have his productions of *Romeo and Sleeping Beauty*, and I hope he will go on working with us as a dancer and, I would like to think, as choreographer too. But when one day he stops dancing, we need other dancers and we must develop them now."

Field is also determined that, when the shorter works return to Festival Ballet's programmes next season, they shall be carefully produced and cast so as to be seen to best advantage. Then later, in the summer of 1982, will come a new production of *Swan Lake* which he intends to mount himself, with the same as designer and Maria Fay, a teacher celebrated

for her understanding of traditional character dances, supervising that side of the work.

Potentially even more important is Field's proposal, already under discussion with the Arts Council, to send a group of about 15 dancers and 12 musicians on tour for parts of the year. They would appear in theatres too small to take the full company, dancing ballets specially mounted for them.

Field sees that as a way of reaching new audiences and of giving the company's principal dancers and soloists an increasing variety of roles to dance. "We can switch them around so that everyone gets a chance," he says. Several established choreographers have already expressed their willingness to work with the small group.

"Not only choreographers. We shall give opportunities to

some of our technical staff, too, for instance to a young electrician to try lighting design for the first time. I think it is important to make the ballets look good with proper costumes and first-rate lighting although with the absolute minimum of scenery."

"We still have to find a proper title for the splinter group. It is important to make clear that it is part of Festival Ballet, not a new company. But I am really determined to try to get that going this summer. I think it is important not to stagnate, but to make the most of what we have. I was reading the old news about D'Oyly Carte Opera, and I want to make sure that we never get into the position where we can be criticized as they have been."

"I don't see Festival Ballet as being in competition with other companies. We each have something different to offer: that's why I try to see what everybody else is doing. The number of companies we have in this country and the standard they keep up seems to me pretty good: we have to keep it that way."

John Percival

Book review

The Mystique of Flying By Harry Bauer

(W. E. Allen, £4.95)

The word mystique did not worry me. Flying must have something of that. But I had not at first noticed the subtle, "Exploring Reality and Self".

Nothing of the kind. Harry Bauer proves the very man to have up front in the left hand. The rest of us, that is, in our happy in his work embracing the sky like a lover, he would not get us into a dive anyway, unless from a technical hitch. Even then he would pull us out and touch down on silk.

Lately a teacher of English and Social Science, now a flight instructor at Oakland, California, he does not fly air liners (and deplores the way their cabins are crisscrossed to kid us we are not flying, thus spoiling our fun) and that is too bad. I should be insisting on him by name as my next check-in, refusing all others.

And had he got to me a couple of decades earlier, I should have rushed off at his last page to acquire my pilot's certificate. It is impossible not to believe, after reading him, that this document is the admission ticket to a world of release, fulfilment and the expanded life. And not simply while you are up there, a transient escape. Back down below, among the footrooted clouds, you see them as only half alive.

Saint-Exupéry felt this. In the bus one day to the airport and his mail plane he looked at his fellow-passengers, the clerks and petty officials, with

patience and joy. For them, one more day of stunted routine and office squabbles. For him, the air.

Bauer's book is not about flying. Well, there are bits. Some fascinating: the laws of aerodynamics, the pilot's aerodynamics for the safety-check. Some comforting, if you are one of those whose knuckles whiten at take-off: remember next time that your 747, say, can not help taking off. "As the speed increases... the shape of the airplane begins to do its work, and we lift gently into the air."

But the comfort and fascination lie chiefly in the author's proposition that all men are equal. Or can be. Flyers and clouds alike. The flier has the better chance of finding what body and mind can do. He has to, and without anxiety, tension, self-doubt. The rest of us, that is, in our secure, bored, unstrung existence, always with someone else to lean on, obsessed with "getting on" (but getting where?) can also learn to extend ourselves beyond what we cloudily accept as life's imposed limitations.

My feeling, despite an habitual rejection of all such stuff, is that I might have a go. Like the pilot's certificate I have just got a bit. Probably nothing will come of it. But see what one might do is something. A step. You never know.

It is a short work, ideal for a short hop. London to Nice, perhaps? Because if you are up there, a transient escape. Back down below, among the footrooted clouds, you see them as only half alive.

Basil Foothroyd

The History Man BBC 2

Michael Ratcliffe

That Malcolm Bradbury remains a delicate surgeon of the Zeitgeist (whichever, and wherever, it is) was clear from *Standing in for Henry*, a sharp but touching comedy of the Sixties transmitted in the "Playhouse" slot on December 19 and all but buried under the effluence of low-risk, non-toxic waste that has choked the television schedules almost ever since.

Henry reconsidered the earnest assumptions of permissiveness in provincial England through the darkling glass of 1980 whilst still allowing them a measure of sympathy and understanding. Similarly, though less intentionally, seems to have happened in Christopher Hampton's intelligent and entertaining adaptation of Bradbury's 1975 novel about wickedness of a white-tiled campus during the ideological tea-break of 1972. *The History Man* was one of the fiercest and funniest British novels of the Seventies, but the tone here is closer to the picturesque resilience of *Lucky Jim* or *Tom Jones*.

It looked much the same as before; but it was in fact a new production of *Tosca* that opened on Saturday night. The music, but the words, touched up here and there, perhaps, certainly more tellingly than I remember from recent revivals: dawn on top of the Castel Sant'Angelo had some oddly selective sunbeams to begin with, but the first act, in San Andrea della Valle, was truthful to the eye, both in the desolate gleams in the half-darkness as the curtain rose and in the more brilliant light for the Te Deum later.

From the start Mr Hampton has had to abandon the novel's most memorable and incisive

feature: the savage and unforgiving caricature voice which moves the characters about like an avenging puppeteer. Without that vice-like grip to hold him in check, and in the performance of an actor like Anthony Sher, the villainous sociologist Kirk takes off and is positively seen to be fuelled by what rulers of the novel must only take for granted: an irresistible, stoat-like charm. In the first two episodes he only bares his teeth once, engaging in serious class warfare with a pupil, George, whereas the novel shows their sharp little points throughout.

Michael Wearing's production, directed by Robert Knights, is somewhat leisurely, but of a piece with Hampton's gentler irony and exceedingly well cast. Kirk's wife and partner in Kirkness and perpetual revolution, the cantankerous German-Jewish novelist Felicity (Veronica Quilligan) and the destructively masochist Henry (Paul Brooke) are particularly perfect. Bradbury writes some of the best dialogue in the business—the novel abounds in it—and Hampton has skillfully used a good deal while tightening it up for better dramatic effect here and there. Paul Howell's and Ann Jenkins's graphics sum it up nicely: the clenched fist of People's Power melts into a corkscrew which opens a bottle of pink which pours a torrent of revolutionary gun. Lovely, but what about the terrified dog and the fatal encounter between private morality and social conscience? The novelist, so far, has proved irreplaceable.

Many other roles at this performance were taken by dancers new to them. Wendy Ellis in the title part goes at all her solos confidently, but there is not quite sensibility in the way she dances the role of the so ardent a partner as Mark Silver. It is a pity, too, that she seems to have only two expressions—apparently alarmed or broadly cheerful—so that no real character comes through.

The dancing honours, for spirit as well as style, go to the new quartet of Seasons' fairies. Julie Rose's effervescent gaiety as Spring, Bryony Brind's sinuously waving arms as Summer, Madonna Benjamin's speed and assurance as Autumn and Fiona Cheswick's cool elegance as Winter, make this young group an unusually pleasing and well-balanced team.

Douglas Howes proves a sprightly jester; ideally a little more height in his jumps would be desirable, but he already does a nice balance between facetiousness and melancholy in his acting. Emanuel Young's conducting reveals sympathy for Prokofiev's best ballet score.

Cinderella Covent Garden

John Percival

David Drew and Brian Shaw, who played the stepsisters in the Royal Ballet's *Cinderella* on Saturday afternoon, are gentler and less pushy than this season's other cast, and consequently more genuinely amusing. Drew, whom I had not seen before in this role, shows that even the more bossy of the sisters can be pathetic too, and the ballet gains from that insight.

All the same, I cannot help feeling that the time has come to revert to having women play the part as Ashton originally intended. Just think what Monica Mason and Lynn Seymour might make of them, among several names springing to mind. The change would move the ballet away from the irrelevant pastiche of images and would also help avoid invidious comparisons with the former inimitable casting of Helpmann and Ashton.

Pauk/Schiff Queen Elizabeth Hall

Hilary Finch

Like Prospero's magic island, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, in the second of its nine "Mainly Mozart" recitals, was filled last Friday with sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not, so finely spun and elusive in their beauty were the performances by György Pauk and András Schiff of two Mozart violin and piano sonatas, framed by Schubert's Rondo in B minor and his Fantasy in C.

The two Schubert pieces were written for the virtuosos Czech violinist Josef Slavik; yet on this occasion one was aware of the undeniably virtuosic character of both writing and performance only on reflection, so fully assimilated into the expressive part of the music was the technical accomplishment of each performer.

Each episode of the Rondo took on a colour of its own, Schiff's piano part sparkling here in anticipation, there in imitation of the lute, sweetly imitating the lute. At if in preparation for the third movement of Schubert's Fantasy in C with its variations of his own

song "Sei mir Gegrüsst". Pauk sounded even more at times as if he were singing his way through its opening stanzas. Molto, catching its melody with great eloquence and finesse of tone over the shimmering movement of Schiff's subtle, delicately controlled accompaniment.

Particularly memorable was the freshness of tone which coloured the strength of Schiff's accompaniment to the pizzicato variation and the intense energy generated by both players for the final Allegro, with its tautly pointed violin playing and sensitively blended pedalling.

Just before the interval we heard Mozart's Sonata in A, K526, the last of the three "greats" the opera mysteries of its slow movement most beautifully searched out and shared between the violin's tapering phrases and the piano's poised and weighted sentences, its outer two movements deftly phrased and fluently joyful. The two-movement K304 Sonata in E minor after the interval was performed with that combination of ingenious delight and tempered wit which characterised the entire evening's playing.

adviser to Bhutto family arrested in Karachi raid

in Our Correspondent
Karachi, Jan 4

Archival police have arrested four persons in connection with the murder of Mr. Benazir Bhutto, a member of the Bhutto family, in Karachi. The police said they had arrested the four persons in connection with the murder of Mr. Benazir Bhutto, a member of the Bhutto family, in Karachi.

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China 'hot line' in Hongkong to trap smugglers

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Jan 4

Chinese customs officials have installed a "hot line" telephone on the Hongkong border to receive round-the-clock calls from Hongkong residents who are being urged to give them warnings of attempts to smuggle luxury goods into China.

Those who cooperate with the Chinese authorities will be rewarded with a percentage of any goods that are thereby seized on entry.

Allamid the encircling gloom

Rock Week ICA

Richard Williams

No rock musician with a message of hope or even a desire to place a tentative bet on the ultimate victory of the human spirit would have stood much of a chance at the ICA last week. The Rock Week was intended to be a thermometer inserted in the armpit of the nation's youth; it came up with a single reading: Despair. Band after band arrived on stage cloaked in gloom, intent on delivering humorous visions of a world going mad. The result was a barrage of the abrupt and the abrasive was inevitable, a complete reduction of any sense of shock; by the time the Basement 5 sang, late of Saturday night, the howls of protest seemed almost comical.

The Sound, a London quartet who headlined on Friday, have a head start by looking atypical. No carefully-preserved leanness here: their leader, Adrian Borland, who sings and plays guitar, appears positively well-fed. Yet, of all the musicians, he alone articulated his anger clearly and effectively, taking the common subjects and bringing them to life.

There is nothing particularly novel about the Sound's music. The drummer and the bass guitarist make a capable rhythm section, while Borland generally uses her small synthesizer only for background colouration. At the moment, too, Borland's attitude to structure and the band betray the presence of weaker songs the occasionally overplaying. Sometimes, though, as on "I Can't Escape Myself" and "How of Need", the elements match and the playing takes on a perfect economy. The very best of their pieces—"Missiles", a great modern

protest song, and the ecstatic "Heartland"—are spellbinding, with a passion to match any one's.

The Basement 5, whose singer is the talented photographer Dennis Morris, are much lower, at a simplified version of Public Image Ltd's off-centre ranting. They even use one of PIL's former drummers, Richard Dudanski, but their range is so restricted that Morris's songs merge into one long and largely uninteresting blur. The extravagant dubbed vocal effects and siren guitar of "Riot" escaped from the mould, hinting at what might be achieved.

They were preceded by Redbeat, who worked along the same lines but boasted a more incisive drummer and an inventive guitarist whose restless lines seemed closer to Jim McGuinn's old rag-rock than the deformed disco of PIL's Keith Levene. Like others before and after them, though, Redbeat were dragged down by the need to conform to the prevailing gloominess.

SPORT

Racing

Haydock race gives Little Owl a target to reach before March

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

That infinitely promising young steeplechaser, Little Owl, who is being talked of as a potential winner of the Tote Gold Cup at Cheltenham one day, will run next on January 24 in the Peter Marsh Steeplechase at Haydock Park. With £16,000 added to the sweepstakes this race is the first of a weight range limited to 21 lb and Jim Wilson, who owns Little Owl now in partnership with his brother, believes it is the ideal stepping stone towards Cheltenham in March.

The handicapper has given Little Owl 10 lb for the Haydock race which is 15 lb below the top weight, Silver Buck. That then is the amount of improvement that Little Owl must make in the next couple of months if he is going to be a force in this year's Gold Cup. Silver Buck will definitely miss the Haydock race. He has not been out of a walk since his memorable victory in the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day and his trainer, Michael Dickinson, still envisages resting him throughout January.

There will be no respite for Diamond Edge who also ran in the big race at Sandown Park but who did not excel on that occasion, unlike Silver Buck. His trainer, Fike Wainwright, told me at Newbury on Saturday that he intends sending Diamond Edge to Sandown Park next Saturday for the Anthony M. P. Stakes. That is another visit to the Essex course which will be a real test for the horse.

Wainwright's other star, the Mandarav Steeplechase, is scheduled for Newbury a fourth time failed last season because his runner,

Terbank, was unsure at the open steeplechase. It was just such an obstacle that brought about his downfall in the Hennessy Gold Cup on his last visit to the course. It was the same fence that cost him the prize this time. He made such a bash of it that he lost his impetus and the advantage passed to Chumson.

Terbank still managed to overcome Chumson but neither were able to hold Master Smudge at bay. Jumping the cross fence, which is the fifth from the finish, you would not have given a chance for Master Smudge's chance. However, Richard Lintley who was riding him for the first time and who admitted later that he was not a hard work never gave up trying.

Master Smudge is trained by his owner, Arthur Barrow, who also bred him. Until this season Mr. Barrow operated under a permit from his home near Bridge-water. But after Master Smudge had been awarded last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup on the disqualification of Tied Cottage, Mr. Barrow decided to give up his handiwork to build some more stables and set up as a public trainer. He now has 10 horses in the yard but Master Smudge was his first winner of the season. And as he admitted his success did not come a moment too soon.

The finish of the L'Oréal handicap hurdle was a repeat of the Boxing Day Handicap Hurdle at Sandown Park. That was won by News King who was inspiringly ridden by John Francome as Fire Drill gave a persistent challenge. On this occasion, however, the assistant, Oliver Sherwood, deputised for Francome who is still suffering from flu.

Sedgefield inspection

There will be a precautionary inspection at Sedgefield at 7.30 am today. Kit Egerton, the clerk of the course, said: "At the moment the course is perfectly fit to race but the weather forecast is not good—snow and frost are said to be on the way." The Ayr meeting on Saturday was abandoned because of waterlogging.

STATE OF GOING (official): Sedgefield, 7.30 am. The weather is not good—snow and frost are said to be on the way. The Ayr meeting on Saturday was abandoned because of waterlogging.

Nottingham programme

12.45 DALESIDE CHASE (Selling handicap: £590: 2m)

01a Jet on (CD, B), Mrs E. Lomas 9-11-11 Rye
02a Elton (B), W. G. 12-1-11 Ebbw Vale
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This report marks the opening of the International Year of Disabled People

THE DISABLED

It is an ambiguous coincidence, as the International Year of Disabled People is being launched, that "The Elephant Man" should be running so well in London and New York, on screen as well as on the stage. The half-forgotten Victorian history of the short life of John Merrick, grotesquely deformed by a rare bone disease, is enjoying a minor vogue today, expressed also in books and even T-shirts.

What this says about our attitudes to those set apart by disfigurement, or by prejudice towards it, is debatable. The story evokes sympathy for the gentle individual trapped inside a frame which made him appear monstrous, but also touches feelings of lurid curiosity and fear. If we are less rejecting in our attitudes than the Victorians (and it is only because we feel we can make that claim that we can enjoy the tale), it is a difference of degree and not of kind.

These complexities of response are familiar to most seriously disabled people: the mixture of goodwill, inhibition and condescension that so often disables those who meet them. It is one of the major aims of the international year to break barriers of this kind—in a sense a more fundamental one than any of its innumerable more tangible objectives.

Underlying many of the demands in the United Nations Charter is the theme that disabled people need to be rescued—or, perhaps better, to free themselves—from being type-cast as dis-

abled, with all that that implies in restriction of opportunities for contact with the world on equal terms, physically, socially and in employment.

The problem of prejudice needs to be met with a variety of tactics. The projects grouped under the auspices of the year are nothing if not varied. One reflects the relevance of the Elephant Man vogue: the National Film Theatre is putting on a season of films concerned with disfigurement, chosen by a film director, Steve Dwoskin, who has polio myelitis, and Alan Sutherland, a journalist, who is epileptic.

The films extend from Laurel and Hardy to Frankenstein, and illustrate the propensity of artists to represent disabled people as either saints or monsters, seldom anything in between. Either expectation can be equally inhibiting to handicapped people who wish to be acknowledged as themselves.

It might appear that in many parts of the world the theme of integration is less urgent than it is in Britain, where the needs of people with disabilities are pro-



Michael Bennett

vided for on a scale which is by world standards lavish in countries where much of the rural population enjoys no primary medical care, where famine creates an aggravates handicaps on a huge scale, the emphasis must be different. In such countries the scale of the problem tends to lower expectations and raise prejudices, and only a

change to be made without adequate provision of the necessary specialist care in the ordinary schools. In Britain, too the problem is one of resources as well as of attitudes.

The problem of resources would have been a central one for IYDP even if the project had not coincided with a world recession. At home, with a Government determined to achieve control of public spending at all costs, the activities of IYDP will take on a more sharply political flavour than they would in any case have had, as the disabled and their spokesmen seek to hold the Government to those guarantees of special protection to the disadvantaged made when it took office.

Basic social services expenditure has been protected to some extent from cuts, the health service more effectively than the local government side (a fact that implies a lurch back from satis-

factory community care, as well as a further drag on the slow progress made by local authorities to fulfil the duties assigned to them by legislation in the 1970s).

But important as such things are, it would be wrong to measure the effects of public policy on the disabled simply in terms of waiting lists for wheelchairs, of care allowances, or of invalidity benefit. Disabled people are members of the community as a whole, and share the gains and losses of us all. They make up a tenth of the population, on the broad definition adopted by the United Nations.

Most of these below retirement age are in employment. It is highly desirable that as many as possible should be, both because of the benefit to their own morale and self-reliance, and because the more net givers there are in a society, the better it can afford to provide for those who cannot contribute in the same way.

It is difficult to assess the effects of the recession on disabled workers. There are signs that as yet unemployment has grown less fast among them than the average. But the ability of such workers to fend for themselves is more fragile. Cuts in bus services, house building and adaptation, urban aid programmes, even the maintenance of pavement flagstones (that customary first resort of councils pinched for funds) make more difference to the work and recreation of disabled people, because their margin of adaptability is narrower.

Because of the recession, and also for ideological reasons, the Government is more inclined than its predecessors to look towards the charities for aid. Joint projects are in favour.

The contribution of the charities is more than just extra funds. Time and again, official initiatives only follow in the footsteps of pioneering work already done by

voluntary agencies, less burdened by policies and precedents. Every category of disability is served by one or more major charities, usually with many local branches.

But charities depend ultimately on donations, and the public is wayward in the causes it finds attractive. Charities for the physically disabled raised £22m in 1979, 80; those for the blind £10m; heart disease attracted £3m, while cancer, where returns on effort are small and slow, raised £27m. But deafness, terminal care and mental handicap (notoriously unpopular at the collecting-box) gained only £4m between them.

The state and the charities are not the main supporters of those who cannot fend for themselves. The family does most, as it always has. Even in more prosperous times, the state could never hope to care for more than a fraction of the seriously handicapped. And whatever success we may have in giving

a better chance of an independent life to those who can take it, the number of those who cannot must be expected to rise. Two thirds of the seriously disabled are more than 65, and the proportion of old people in the population is certain to increase in the immediate future.

The aim of policy, for state and charities alike, must be to sustain independence and family help as fully as possible, both because it is the solution that those involved usually prefer, and because it is cheaper. But the policy must not be a crude process of shifting the burden off the published budgets of organized services on to the weary shoulders of the family. Support aimed at backing up private endeavour outside institutions may cost less money than the conventional solutions, but it calls for more than a fraction of the seriously handicapped. And whatever success we may have in giving

George Hill

Charter for 1980s warns society of waste of potential

More than 500 million people around the world are disabled, and at least 350 million of them live without the help they need to enjoy a full life.

Those daunting statistics make up the opening statement of a charter, for the 1980s, which is being published to coincide with the International Year of Disabled People. The charter points out that about a quarter of the members of any community are affected by disability, through various of the sufferers and those who assist and support them.

"Any society which fails to respond effectively to these problems accepts not only a huge loss of human resources but a cruel waste of human potential", the charter states.

It goes on to say that the knowledge and the skills to remove the barriers that exclude the disabled from community life exist; what is often lacking is the political will to translate into action the policies that will bring this about.

Yet while the essential problem of the disabled is the same world wide, its scale and the facilities and

effort put into coping with it vary enormously.

Mr Alf Morris, Britain's first Minister for the Disabled, and chairman of the planning group that drew up the charter, points out that while generally one person in 10 is disabled, a country such as India, with fewer resources than those in the developed West, has more disabled people than Britain has people.

Moreover, the developing countries face problems that the West has either overcome, or at least in the recent past, largely been spared. War and poverty not only cause disability but also swallow resources that could tackle it. Diseases such as leprosy and polio, almost unheard of now in developed countries, still cause disability in the Third World.

Although no one would argue that the position of Britain's disabled is satisfactory, provision is probably as good overall as anywhere else in the world.

The stimulus provided by the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act of 1970 meant that the last decade saw a steady improvement. More than £1,000m

worth of spending on disability grants was introduced by the last government. Attitudes are slowly changing, and the present government, hamstrung by its commitment to cutting public spending, has indicated that it intends to use more flexibly the money it has got—for example, to speed the removal of the mentally handicapped out of long-stay hospitals into hotels and similar places of treatment.

Some poorer countries have an advantage over Britain in one key area. Many poorer countries have not chucked the disabled out of society as did in the late eighteenth century, when we made prisons on the edge of town for people who did not meet the norms. In the third world, the disabled are part of society, not apart from society as they have been here," Mr Morris says.

Where it still exists, it is important psychologically as well as practically, but it has to be set against the scale of the problem. It is forecast that 15 out of every 100 children born in the

Third World this year will die before the age of one. A quarter will suffer deficiency diseases; three-quarters will lack modern medical care. Millions will become inevitably blind.

Mr Morris believes no one should argue that the resources are not available. "If only 1 per cent of what is now spent on munitions of war were spent on the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled people, the lot of the disabled in the Third World could quickly be transformed. We must insist the problem is one of political will and priorities, not resources."

One immediate aim of the charter is to secure the appointment by every government of a coordinator who would be directly responsible to the head of government to help to provide that political will. It contains more than 40 other "targets" and insists that all existing arrangements should be reviewed to ensure that the disabled have full access to educational, work and social opportunities, easily measured.

Nicholas Timmins

Three million Britons afflicted

About three million people in Britain have their daily activities limited by some physical handicap. The make-up of this vast population of the disabled is known reasonably accurately from surveys carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and by local authorities. But the figures for Britain are lower than for some other European countries, where the test of disability is much stricter.

In childhood most disability is due to birth defects. One child in every 50 is born with some physical abnormality; fortunately most of these are minor and many heart defects and other structural malformations can be repaired by surgery early in infancy.

The three main crippling disorders of childhood are spina bifida (faulty development of the spinal cord and the bones round it), cerebral palsy or spasticity, and muscular dystrophy.

Muscular dystrophy is a genetic defect inherited from one or other parent, usually the mother; the other two disorders remain essentially unexplained.

During childhood and the teenage and early adult years by far the most important causes of disability are accidents—on the road, in the home, and during sporting activities. Every year a handful of schoolboys are paralysed for life by spinal injuries acquired while playing rugby football.

The teens and early twenties are also the peak years of onset of multiple sclerosis, the most common serious nervous disorder of young adults, in which damage to the brain and spinal cord

from some unexplained cause results in weakness, loss of sensation and difficulties with speech and vision.

In middle age men and women who have struggled against progressively severe symptoms of heart and chest disease have to accept limitations on their way of life. Bronchitis, asthma and coronary disease account for 800,000 of the 3,000,000 disabled in Britain, according to an assessment by the Office of Health Economics.

Less common but more threatening are rheumatoid arthritis and other joint disorders due to some disturbance in the body's control of inflammation. All forms of arthritis account for more than a million of the disabled in Britain.

During the 1960s and 1970s the dominant cause of disability is stroke—damage to the brain from a blockage in one of its blood vessels or from bleeding. About a third of the patients admitted to hospitals with a stroke die there; a third recover completely and a third are left with some handicap, usually weakness of an arm, leg, or the whole of one side of the body.

Parkinsonism, the combination of muscular weakness with a persistent tremor, is another common problem. Between them these two disorders account for a further 350,000 of the disabled.

Disorders of the senses, especially the eyes and ears, become more common with advancing years despite advances in medical understanding of their causes and treatment; about 300,000 of the disabled are either blind or deaf. Less well-publicized but nevertheless equally devastating for the victims are disorders such as the skin disease psoriasis,

which may also cause a severe arthritis, or chronic intestinal disorders such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Finally several thousand adults and children have lives dependent on regular treatment on an artificial kidney (while hoping for a transplant operation).

What is medical science doing to help this vast army of disabled? Research takes two main forms. The most fundamental approach is the attempt to discover the cause of the disease and so find a specific treatment.

Some notable victories have been won. Gout, for example, which is formerly a crippling form of arthritis, can now be treated by a biochemical approach that prevents the accumulation of urate crystals in the joints and cartilage. Chronic deformities from gout are now rarely seen.

Boys with haemophilia can now have the missing factor added to their blood so that they no longer need for days after a minor injury.

Advances in diagnosis of genetic disorders have made possible the recognition of some serious congenital diseases early enough in fetal development for the parents to be able to choose to have the pregnancy terminated and avoid having a handicapped child. Such an approach stresses many parents, however, and in some disease prenatal diagnosis and abortion may prove to be no more than a stop-gap measure.

Hundreds of pregnancies are terminated each year for spina bifida, for example. Some research groups now believe that the disease may be prevented by attention to the mother's diet, and

should their theory prove correct all concerned will prefer the preventive treatment.

The greatest single advance in the relief of symptoms due to arthritis has been the development of artificial joints. Thousands of patients are now walking round on hips made of steel and plastic instead of hobbling in constant pain. Replacements are also available for arthritic knees, shoulders, fingers and elbows.

The relief of symptoms by drugs has also improved enormously as pharmacologists have refined their research methods. Often disease processes can be halted or reversed by treatment which, while not curative, blocks the progression of damage to the joints or other target organs.

The third line of research is the continuing search for aids for the disabled to make their lives easier—better hoists, wheelchairs, and electronic equipment for those with muscular weakness, are among the thousands of devices available through the NHS.

Much of the impetus for research into the crippling diseases and for the application of research findings comes from charities. Sadly, by no means all patients can benefit from the advances that have been made. In some cases disabled people struggle on in their own homes, unaware of the aids available. In other cases the patients and their doctors know what is wanted but are frustrated by delays, shortage of funds, and waiting lists. The free health services expenditure will address these frustrations.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

How to win an award



for employing people who are loyal, healthy, safe and productive.

(They're called 'Disabled', but don't let that fool you)

If you are responsible for employment and promotion, how much thought do you give to disabled people? Probably not a lot.

Yet a recent study showed that, on average, disabled people stay in their jobs for over 10 years, saving their employer the heavy costs of recruiting and training new staff.

It also showed that they needed, on average, only 1½ days sick leave a year. That they were actually safer workers because they have to give total concentration to the simple tasks about which the able-bodied may be more careless. And that, in many areas, they were more productive and took greater pride in what they were doing.

Why should this be? No doubt it is to do with the fact that once disabled people decide to overcome their disability, virtually nothing will shake their determination. As you can see, there are very sound business reasons for employing the disabled.

Here's another reason. If your firm meets certain basic criteria in employing disabled people, it could join the 100 firms who have already won the prestigious FIT FOR WORK award under a scheme that has the full approval of the Government, CBI and TUC.

For details of the criteria and further information, just complete and send in this coupon.

Apply now to: The Manager, Central Awards Unit, Manpower Services Commission, (ESG 3), Floor 6, The Pennine Centre, 20-22 Hawley Street, Sheffield S1 3GA.

Please send me further information and an application form. (Applications must relate to the period 1st April 1980 to 31st March 1981.) (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name

Position in firm

Name of firm

Address

Closing date for applications 31st March 1981.

TT/1

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19
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Employment Services
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THE DISABLED

Therapy elicits full potential

Almost all of us, it has been said, are disabled in one way or another. A slight loss of hearing, the need for spectacles, the shoulder of the surgeon, all slight impairments that in no way seriously handicap.

Yet statistics show that at least one person in every 10 suffers some sort of physical, mental or sensory impairment that is noticeably disabling, but the degree of handicap this brings depends to a great extent on the way society reacts to disability.

Most able-bodied people seem better able to cope with someone with damaged limbs in a wheelchair than someone who is deaf or has trouble speaking. It is the therapist's job, however, whatever the handicap, to overcome or reduce the disability to a minimum. It may be the skills of a physiotherapist or a speech therapist, but without the skills of the therapist in helping patients of whatever age to reach their full potential, much of the doctor's skills would be wasted.

Therapists' involvement comes in coping with the effects of accidents, cancer, coronary, stroke and of degenerative diseases. They also share the anguish of parents told that their child has cerebral palsy, spina bifida or any of the other conditions which delay or prevent a child's normal development.

It is on the sometimes long road to fitness that the

four chief therapeutic professions—the physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and remedial gymnasts—play a vital role, aided by the specialist skills where needed of the dietitian, orthoptist and chiropodist.

Physiotherapists and remedial gymnasts are skilled in techniques based on movement. They can teach patients to make use of their own muscles to regain full independence or to accommodate to a disability to the best advantage.

Apart from the use of manipulation to relieve pain, the therapist can apply heat or ice, use electrical equipment or give treatment in a hydrotherapy pool where movement is easier. Riding can be used as a treatment for some patients to improve muscle power, strength, circulation and balance and can become a leisure activity.

While the physiotherapist probably spends more time with an individual patient in hospital, the occupational therapist spends considerable time helping the disabled person and relatives to cope with life at home. She encourages the patient to use the mobility gained from the physiotherapy to solve the practical problems caused by disease or injury but the occupational therapist is involved assessing and treating psychiatric as well as the physical condition.

Disability can bring depression which is as crippling as the disability itself.

plunging as the disability itself and occupational therapists can help those whose sole problem is depression or mental breakdown get back to work and family life. For the physically disabled developing new skills may be a necessary part of rehabilitation or industrial unit.

In common with occupational therapists, speech therapists need not only have a rapport with their patients but a clear understanding of their patients' background and home life so that they can help both the patient and relatives through the various stages of development or recovery.

Speech therapists work primarily with children who have speech and language disorders. In the case of a cerebral palsied child where there are feeding and breathing difficulties, treatment may start within two days of birth. Unless a child is able to feed normally and use tongue and lips it will be difficult later to produce the precise voluntary movements needed for speech. It is therefore necessary to try to develop a child's ability to communicate even before he can speak.

An increasing part of speech therapy, however, is now directed towards the adult stroke and cancer of the larynx victims. In the latter case treatment can start before the operation to remove the voice box to prepare the patient for regaining speech.

While the therapists each have individual skills, they never-

theless often work in a team. A head injury with broken limbs and age may need more than one specialist. The speech therapist, occupational therapist, dietitian and chiropodist, each with their own speciality, must work together to help the patient to overcome their disabilities.

The treatment of weight osteoarthritis with corns by a therapist would be without the advice of a dietitian and chiropodist. If in the past work has been based on a number of guides to welfare rights produced by various pressure groups, official information is less easy to understand and tends merely to state basic facts, while the pressure groups unashamedly set out to describe not only the rules but how to use them to best advantage.

What disabled people receive in both cash and kind to enable them to live as normal lives as possible depends on a number of variables which can make substantial differences to incomes and the services they are offered. The most important variables in assessing which benefits are payable arise from how people live, the extent of their disabilities, the age and the disease, forgetfulness, their national insurance failing hearing.

With economic stringency, health care caused by war and industrial accidents, they are entitled to a basic disablement pension of £4.30 a week at the age of 16, or £9.00 per week, which can be increased by a range of allowances including unemployment supplement, no allowances for constant attendance and hospital treatment. Other national insurance benefits can be claimed by those who are severely disabled or who have been in receipt of a war or industrial disablement pension for at least 10 years.

Once under way (in a war or industrial disablement pension, but has until 1982) publication of the policies may help more disabled people to take advantage of the assistance through the various ways in which the MSC has an offer of help to those who are severely disabled or who have been in receipt of a war or industrial disablement pension for at least 10 years.

A survey carried out by the MSC in association with its Fit for Work campaign found that all the organizations concerned confirmed that disabled employees were good workers and that employing them made good economic sense.

Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Cuts in standards of help

Britain will enter the International Year of Disabled People offering the handicapped a lower standard of living and access to fewer essential services than before. These are the results of the significant reductions in social security implemented in November, 1980, and a single person, rising to a maximum of £34.65 with the top earnings-related supplement. After six months, they go on to invalidity pension at £26 a week.

The invalidity pension was increased by about 10 per cent or £3.35 a week for a single person—less than the amount guaranteed under previous legislation. That drop in the inflation proofing of benefits occurred because the Government first dropped the link with earnings, which formerly applied to invalidity pensions and other long-term benefits, and second, reclassified invalidity pensions as short-term. The second change meant that invalidity pensions were increased in November, 1980, by 5 per cent less than the amount the Government estimated was necessary to compensate for inflation since the last increase.

Severely disabled people who need constant help can receive the attendance allowance at £21.65 a week for day and night attendance or £14.45 for people not needing 24-hour assistance. About a quarter of the severely disabled receive this allowance, with more receiving the lower than higher rate. It will be clear from this brief résumé that the whole

area of incomes from the state for disabled people is highly complex and subject to attention by the government of the day. The best comprehensive guide is the *Disabling Rights Handbook*, published annually by the Disability Alliance, 1 Camberwell Terrace, London NW1 4JL, at a maximum price of £1.25.

The services that are available present an equally complex picture; they depend more than anything else on the geographical area in which the disabled person lives. In theory, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act compels all social services authorities to identify their disabled residents and provide them with a range of services in the home to enable them to live as normal lives as possible. In practice, the authorities have discretion to decide who qualify for services as "severely disabled" persons, and this results in very wide variations across the country.

The services that should be provided under the Act include home help and meals-on-wheels, adaptations to the home to make it easier for a disabled person to get about within it, the provision of telephones, radios, and television sets, and holidays. Successive surveys by research and professional bodies have shown that these items stand high on the list of candidates for expenditure cuts.

Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Employers persuaded, not coerced

Much thought has been given in Whitehall recently to how more employers might be encouraged to take on disabled staff to do ordinary jobs. The result has been a switch in the emphasis of official thinking from coercive measures to persuasive ones.

The Manpower Services Commission has been making strenuous efforts to convince employers that disabled persons are good workers who will make up in other ways for their handicaps. Last autumn saw the first results of a link between the MSC and industry leaders through the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress in an annual Fit for Work award scheme. The campaign aims to show that "disability" need not mean "inefficiency".

More than 400 companies which had made special efforts to promote the employment of disabled people during the year were entered for the award. Of these 100 were selected as winners by a distinguished judging committee which included the general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, the chairman of the National Coal Board, British Rail and the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the directors of the Industrial Society and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce as well as the president of the CBI and representatives of the disabled.

Commenting on the response, Mr Geoffrey Gil-

bertson, chairman of the judging committee and chairman of the National Advisory Council on Employment of Disabled People, described it as enormously encouraging. He added: "It has been a switch in the general attitude of employers in this country where to come up to the average standard of all those who have applied for this award, then the problem of employing disabled people would vanish overnight."

The campaign is backed by leaflets, exhibitions and case histories of how named companies approached the disabled employment question. It is an attempt to introduce an attitude among industrialists. The emphasis is on the ability of disabled people to do the job rather than on any limitations they may have.

The Fit for Work campaign is a far cry from the register and quota scheme set up during the war by the Disabled Persons Employment Act 1944. The latter in theory requires companies with 20 or more employees to take on at least 3 per cent registered disabled. In practice well over 60 per cent of companies do not meet their quotas.

The scheme has a number of weaknesses. For a start, there are not enough registered disabled to go round. A great many people who would be entitled to register do not choose to do so because of fear of discrimination or other reasons. However severely handicapped he may be, an employee who is not registered

as disabled does not count towards his employer's quota.

A report published by the Disabled Living Foundation last year strongly opposed the introduction of a compulsory register because the disabled person should be encouraged to emphasize his abilities rather than his disabilities. But without compulsion they failed to see how the system could be more widely used and applied to all. This conclusion sums up the views of many of the representative organizations for the disabled.

The wholly persuasive tactics adopted for the Fit for Work campaign are one alternative to the semi-compulsory methods of the quota and register system. Another recent development which embodies elements from both the award campaign and the quota system is contained in legislation which came into effect last September.

The regulations made under the Companies Act 1980 require companies to disclose their policies to disabled people publicly in their annual reports. Companies employing more than 250 people will have to spell out their philosophies on the recruitment, training and career development of the disabled.

One of the aims behind the legislation is to focus the minds of board level executives and force them, if they have not already done so, to define their policies. Publication

of the policies is seen as a step towards helping potential employees to know where they stand and plan accordingly.

Once under way (in a war or industrial disablement pension, but has until 1982) publication of the policies may help more disabled people to take advantage of the assistance through the various ways in which the MSC has an offer of help to those who are severely disabled or who have been in receipt of a war or industrial disablement pension for at least 10 years.

A survey carried out by the MSC in association with its Fit for Work campaign found that all the organizations concerned confirmed that disabled employees were good workers and that employing them made good economic sense.

Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

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DISABLED PEOPLEDelivering the
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Executive briefcases, car steering columns, wooden storage units, walking aids—these are all made by severely disabled people who produce goods of high quality.

They work for Remploy which, though government subsidised, runs its 89 factories on normal business lines competing against commercial market prices. At Newcastle under Lyme, 100 disabled workers clock in at 8 am for a 39-hour week devoted to rebinding library books and journals for universities. "They are people who with the discipline of a normal factory," Mr Frank Lovatt, the factory manager, says.

With disabilities ranging from leg injuries to epilepsy, the workers are expected to work at least 20 minutes for each hour worked by able people—for weekly wage of £62.50. They have mastered the intricacies of bookbinding, mostly by hand, from rounding and backing to casing.

At Garrett Green, Birmingham, one of 33 factories specialising in packing and assembly, steering columns are made for the Mini Metro, and spare tires are packed for other cars. There are 65 per cent mentally disabled compared with 35 per cent physically disabled employed at this factory. Though Mr Bob Shilling, the manager, admits to a struggle to find work in the recession, he says: "We have managed to keep going—we are holding our heads up and surviving."

Of the estimated 25,000 severely disabled people registered for sheltered employment, Remploy employs one third. About 5,000 are employed in workshops run by local authorities and voluntary bodies acting as the authorities' agents, and by other voluntary organizations.

Though smaller workshops

than Remploy's can be more flexible in catering for specific needs such as those of the blind, the fact that Remploy is centrally organized means the advantages of supporting sales, distribution and managing skills. It is well placed as a commercial concern for its three distinctive product groups—packaging and assembly, furniture, and leather and textiles.

Mr Trevor Owen, Remploy's realistic managing director, who was formerly a personnel manager for ICI, does not think Remploy is too commercial. "What it provides is normality, which is working in a factory against certain constraints," he says. A recent McKinsey report gave the company a clear discipline for assessing new business "which is very important to us," and advice on presenting management accounts. He would like to see Remploy establish some non-factory outlets, such as data banking.

The company negotiates the wage rates with the unions so that workers' earnings, including merit and output payments, are between £10 and £12 a week and the full amount earned by the non-handicapped in a comparable trade. He thinks that the more industry automates itself, the more opportunities there will be for Remploy.

A company that is by definition labour-intensive, as an employer of disabled people, Remploy has adopted.

During the International Year of Disabled People there will be open days at all Remploy's 89 factories, as well as at Remploy's sports festival at Stoke Mandeville sports stadium.

Pieter Zwart

WE'RE
HERE
TO HELP.
THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF DISABLED PEOPLE

At NatWest we're doing our best to make sure that 1981 is successful.

Throughout the year we will be supporting a large number of organisations which help make life easier and happier for disabled people.

We will be sponsoring events such as the International Disabled Children's Games, and "One In Ten", an exhibition about disabled people, at the Photographers' Gallery. This exhibition will tour the country after its London opening in January.

So here's to 1981 and every success to the International Year of Disabled People.

NatWest

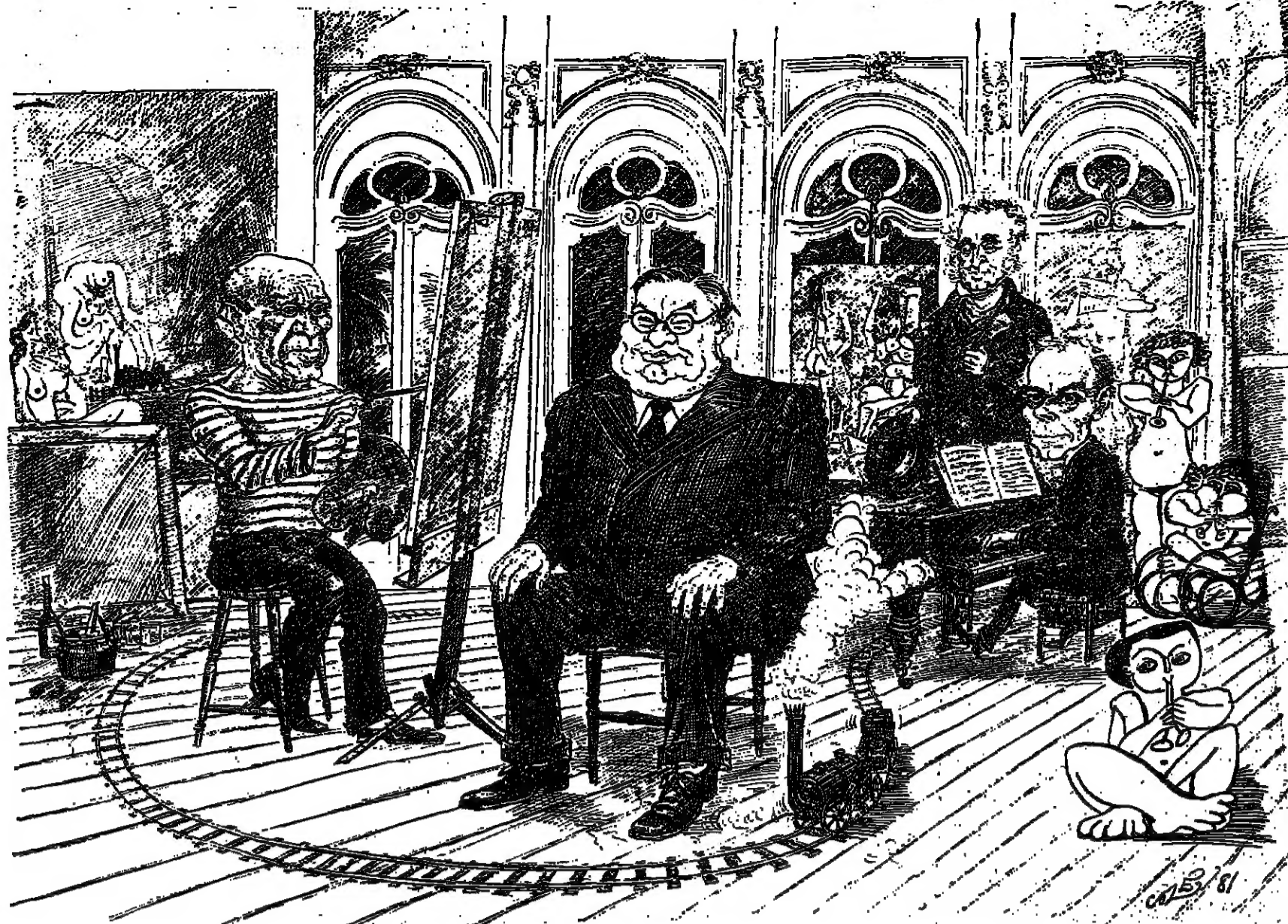
PORTSMOUTH PRESTON RADCLIFFE REDRUTH ROTHER
AND SWANSEA TREFOREST TRENTHAM TONYREF

[REDACTED]

[illegible]

But for obvious reasons, they do sometimes have difficulty finding the kind of ordinary every day jobs that we take for granted. Which is where Remplo comes in. We employ around 8,300 people in some way disabled. We don't offer them charity. The

The anniversaries of 1981



From a gentle monk to a heavyweight champ

1181 St Francis of Assisi
Founder of the Franciscan
order, born

1681 Pieter de Hooch, Dutch
painter, died

1881 Mustafa Kemal Atatürk,
first President of Turkey,
born

JANUARY

1 Louis Auguste Blanqui,
French radical, died, 1881

4 James Ussher, Archbishop of
Armagh, born 1581

9 Lascelles Abercrombie,
writer, born, 1881

30 Anna Maria Hall, Irish
novelist, died, 1881

FEBRUARY

3 John Gould, ornithologist,
died, 1881

4 Josef Myslivecek, Bohemian
composer, died, 1881

Thomas Carlyle, essayist and
historian, died, 1881

7 Ferdinand Léger, French
painter, born, 1881

5 Frederick Lonsdale, dramatist,
born, 1881

9 Fedor Dostoevsky, Russian
novelist, died, 1881

15 Gerthold Lessing, German
critic and dramatist, died,
1781

22 William Stanley Houghton,
dramatist, born, 1881

26 Barde of Marjuba Hill, 1881

MARCH

7 Ernest Bervin, trade union
leader and statesman, born, 1881

13 Uranus discovered by Sir
William Herschel, 1781

14 Alexander II, Tsar of Russia,
assassinated, 1881

14 Georg Philipp Telemann,
German composer, born, 1681

17 Ebenezer Elliott, Corn Law
rhymist, born, 1781

17 Ebenezer Elliott, Corn Law
rhymist, born, 1781

Johannes Ewald, Danish
writer, died, 1781

25 Béla Bartók, Hungarian com-
poser and pianist, born, 1881

Mary Webb, novelist, born,
1881

26 Wood Magic by Richard
Jeffries, published, 1881

28 Modest Petrovich Mus-
sorgsky, Russian composer,
died, 1881

APRIL

7 Sir Francis Chantrey, sculp-
tor, born 1781

16 Edward Lindley Wood, 1st
Earl of Halifax, statesman,
born, 1881

18 Natural History Museum,
London, opened, 1881

19 Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of
Beaconsfield, statesman,
died, 1881

20 Nikolay Yakovlevich Mis-
sorsky, Russian composer,
born, 1881

22 Alexander Kerensky, Rus-
sian revolutionary, born,
1881

MAY

1 Pierre Teilhard de Chardin,
French philosopher, born,
1881

17 Revised edition of the Bible
(New Testament), published,
1881

24 Samuel Palmer, landscape
painter, died, 1881

25 Pedro Calderón de la Barca,
Spanish dramatist, died,
1681

JUNE

2 James Douglas, 4th Earl of
Morton, executed, 1581

6 Henri Vieuxtemps, Belgian
violinist and composer, died,
1881

9 George Stephenson, founder
of railways, born, 1781

15 Wat Tyler, rebel, killed,
1381

18 Sir Thomas Overbury, poet,
baptised, 1581

JULY

1 St Oliver Plunket, Arch-
bishop of Armagh, martyr,
executed, 1681

2 James Abram Garfield, 30th
President of the United
States, shot in Washington,
died Sept 19, 1881

10 Savoy Theatre, London,
opened—the first public
building in England lit by
electricity, 1881

15 Sir Pelham (P. G.) Wode-
house, humorous novelist,
born, 1881

18 William Temple, Archbishop
of Canterbury, born, 1881

17 Lord Hawke, Admiral of the
Fleet, died, 1781

21 Zampieri, called Domeni-
chino, French historical
painter, born, 1581

22 Benedetto Ferrari, Italian
composer, died, 1681

AUGUST

1 Dame Rose Macaulay,
writer, born, 1881

2 Marcus Clarke, Australian
writer, died, 1881

10 Ethel M. Dell, novelist, born,
1881

6 Sir Alexander Fleming,
bacteriologist, born, 1881

12 Cecil B. de Mille, American
film producer, born, 1881

19 Georges Enescu, Romanian
violinist and composer, born,
1881

SEPTEMBER

7 Sidney Lanier, American
poet, died, 1881

OCTOBER

1 Sir Robert Smirke, architect,
born, 1781

3 Ludomir Michel Rogowski,
Polish composer, born, 1881

10 Savoy Theatre, London,
opened—the first public
building in England lit by
electricity, 1881

15 Sir Pelham (P. G.) Wode-
house, humorous novelist,
born, 1881

18 William Temple, Archbishop
of Canterbury, born, 1881

17 Lord Hawke, Admiral of the
Fleet, died, 1781

21 Zampieri, called Domeni-
chino, French historical
painter, born, 1581

22 Benedetto Ferrari, Italian
composer, died, 1681

28 Pablo Picasso, Spanish
painter, born, 1881

NOVEMBER

20 Sir Hugh Owen, Welsh
educationalist and philan-
thropist, died, 1881

21 Cornelius Varley, water-
colour painter and inventor,
born, 1781

25 His Holiness Pope John
XXIII, born, 1881

28 Stefan Zweig, Austrian
writer, born, 1881

DECEMBER

1 St Edmund Campion, Jesuit
martyr, executed, 1581

8 Sir William Parker, Admiral
of the Fleet, born, 1781

2 Jan van Ruysbroeck, Dutch
mystic, died, 1381

8 Padraic Colum, Irish poet,
born, 1881

11 Sir David Brewster, Scottish
natural philosopher, born,
1781

14 Decimus Burton, architect,
died, 1881

17 Andrew Salvin, architect,
died, 1881

18 George Edmund Street,
architect, died, 1881

23 Juan Ramón Jiménez,
Spanish poet, born, 1881

24 Charles Wakefield Cadman,
American organist and com-
poser, born, 1881

25 William Nicholson, portrait
painter, born, 1781

John ("Zion") Ward,
mystic, born, 1781

William Wakefield, first
Communist MP, born, 1881

29 Jess Williams, American
jazz heavyweight cham-
pion, born, 1881

Jack Lonsdale

Peter Jay

Those puzzling monetarist misconceptions

It is hard to remember a time—indeed, there has not been one in the living memory of those under 50—when the country was more alarmed or more mystified about what was happening to the nation's economy. But while people have every reason to be alarmed, they have no need to be mystified.

The root of the puzzle seems to lie in sundry misconceptions about something called "monetarism". These include the notions that current economic policy is monetarist; that such a policy should lead within a year or so to a healthy and vigorous economy without inflation.

An alternative and somewhat more sophisticated version of the current confusion is that monetarist economic policies will lead to a slump, that current economic policies are not monetarist and that the slump is happening anyway. However, there is no need to add intellectual anguish to manifest economic distress.

Monetarism is a doctrine in economic theory about the relationship between changes

in the stock of money and changes in other monetary values, mostly importantly the general level of prices. In its simplest form it maintains that changes in the stock of money (less what is changed in currency velocity) will, after a delay of three to five years, determine the rate of inflation.

A monetarist economic policy, properly understood, is one which aims to regulate the change in the stock of money to match the desired rate of inflation, which is presumed to be nil or near to nil or, at least, a gradual subsidence from the starting point towards it. It justifies the transitional effects associated with such a policy, when superimposed on a strong pre-existing inflation, on the grounds that the change in the stock of money deter-

mines nothing but the rate of inflation and that, therefore, there is no reason to regulate the change in the stock of money on any other principle. Other ideas associated with the work of Professor Milton Friedman, but not in themselves monetarist or logically connected with monetarism, are that contra-cyclical management of total expenditure in the economy (sometimes called "fine tuning") is in practice more likely to aggravate than to smooth the business cycle and that each economy at any one time has a "natural" rate of unemployment to which the actual level will always tend, whatever monetary policies are followed.

An economic policy which acknowledged these doctrines would abstain from short-term

adjustments of its monetary policies and would attack unem-
ployment through other means, most notably attempts to make the labour market work more efficiently.

Monetarism makes no claims about—and a monetarist economic policy promises no prognosis for—the "real" economy, that is the economy of production, sales, profits, employment, investment, productivity and the standard of living. It is true that Professor Friedman, at the end of one of his *Free to Choose* films, did say that a healthy economy as well as a sound currency could be confidently expected from proper regulation of the money supply alone—but of how wrong subsequent discussion has readily acknowledged that this was unjustified hyperbole and

that the health of the real economy depended on many things other than—and not including—the quality of monetary policy.

With this modest clarification the actual content of economic policy in 1980 and the prospect for the economy in the early 1980s may be examined and, with luck, more easily understood. The first and most obvious fact is that, at least since the autumn of 1979, economic policy has not been monetarist, although for the sake of complete clarity it may be necessary to add that policy is defined in this clinical context by the actions of the authorities, not by the rhetoric or even the intentions of the presiding political leaders.

Between 1975-79 policy was broadly monetarist in the essen-

tial senses both that monetary growth was deliberately regulated according to a disinflationary objective and that its actual growth was sharply reduced, following a period in which the money stock had been doubled in three and a half years, to a much more modest though not completely non-inflationary rate. Since then rapid expansion has been resumed, though it is for historians and analysts of institutions to decide whether this occurred by intention, inadvertence or even incompetence.

Recognition of this at least temporary abandonment has led some to ask why, done less, many of the effects supposedly associated with monetarism have not been manifesting. These include both good and bad effects, both some tendency

for inflation to decline and a precipitate plunge into economic depression. The answer is not very far to seek.

As to the trend of inflation, it is puzzling only to those who overlook the length of the interval to be expected between a change of monetary policy and its associated effects on inflation, namely three to five years. The predictable re-acceleration of inflation is not to be expected until the end of 1982 at the earliest, just as the marked drop in inflation in 1978-9 reflected the disinflationary monetary policies of the period from 1975. It is also wrong to be preoccupied with very short term (less than 12 months) fluctuations in the trend of the retail price index, which naturally reflect the impact of changes in indirect

taxes and other important administered prices such as the price of oil and other energy sources.

As to the slump in the real economy in the absence of a sound monetary policy, the basic explanation is that the normal balance of the British economy implies unemploy-
ment permanently in the low millions because of our deeply institutionalized and almost universal habit of posting prices for labour, which are hugely above labour's market-clearing price. Moreover, the inevitable collapse of the old "money illusion" (ie that there will be no inflation in the future) means that we can no longer suppress this tendency to very high unemployment even by inflationary monetary and budgetary policies.

We are getting where we basically "deserve" to be, although on present monetary policies we may yet enjoy—or suffer—a more brief respite in 1982-83 at the cost of yet another great leap forward of inflation.

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Hilda, my politically sophisticated guinea pig, always enjoys watching the new year come in on television. As the lighted ball slides in the ground outside the old New York Times building in Times Square, and dance bands play sentimental favourites at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, she nibbles excitedly on her festive celery and takes another sharp suck at her water dispenser.

Then she settles down for a rambling talk on what the new year might bring. "I am worried," she told me, as 1980 faded into history, "about the quality of Mr Reagan's cabinet choices. Now you know I am far from being a knee-jerk liberal."

"I'll make allowances for the festive spirit but watch it," Hilda warned. "I think that if people consciously chose a conservative president he should be allowed to get on with his mandate. All the same..."

"All the same you find the cabinet choices a bit spooky?"

"That's exactly the word,"

said Hilda, "especially for Alexander Haig, the ghost of Watergate and all that. But it's not just Haig. All the others seem to come from what I call the old New York Times building in Times Square, and dance bands play sentimental favourites at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, she nibbles excitedly on her festive celery and takes another sharp suck at her water dispenser."

"The right doesn't have a monopoly of self-righteousness, if you'll forgive the chunky phrasing," I replied. "Isn't the left equally convinced that it's right—sorry, but this campaign plays havoc with the vocabulary?"

"I suppose so," Hilda admitted, "but somehow they're less overbearing with it. We're generalizing too much. Let's take a specific example. What about this seemingly dreadful man Watt who has been appointed Secretary of the Interior?"

"Didn't I read that he was opposed to environmental protection and that he wanted to dig up Wyoming for oil wells? Haven't he challenged Indian sovereignty over their reservations and opposed cut-price utility services for the poor and handicapped? I shouldn't be surprised to hear that it was he who told Mr Reagan during the

campaign that trees caused more pollution than industry."

"Maybe he'll cut down all the trees and build log-burning power stations," I giggled. "Anyway, what's your opinion on Haig? Do you think he'll have a hard time being ratified by the senate?"

"Could be," said Hilda ruminatively. "But I can't get too excited about his role in Watergate, which seemed to me an exaggerated scandal. What it told us about President Nixon was that he was paranoid, which while it may be an unsuitable quality in a president, is scarcely a heinous crime."

"Guinea pigs see these things differently," I said, careful not to identify myself too closely with her views. "Quite a lot of people are saying that it's not his role in Watergate they mind about Haig, but his support for the Christmas bombing of North Vietnam in 1972. Did you see that piece by Norman Podhoretz the other day in the *New York Times*?"

"We must explain to our British readers," Hilda interjected, "that Norman Podhoretz is the editor of *Commentary*, a right-wing journal like

Encounter only more so. No, I didn't see his *New York Times* piece."

"Let me quote a couple of sentences from it: 'The horrors that have been visited on the people of Indochina under Communist rule have drained the anti-war argument of its old persuasiveness... invoking the name of Vietnam is less likely to discredit Mr Haig than to remind us of how wrong morally wrong and politically wrong—his critics have proved to be about the war.'"

"Surely," squeaked Hilda, "the opponents of the intervention were not arguing that Vietnam was likely to thrive under the Communists? They simply said that the United States had neither the right nor the power to impose its will on that country. As far as the power was concerned at least, that proved to be the case."

"Exactly," I agreed. "But I think we shall see quite a lot of attempts to rewrite history in the early months of the new administration. That often happens when you get so sharp a shift in ideology at the centre of power. Even so, while Haig's view on Vietnam would be

interesting to know, his approach to the Soviet Union will have a greater impact on day-to-day foreign policy."

"I was," said Hilda, "Nibbling through an article the other day which amounted to a collection of the views he's expressed on foreign affairs in recent months. A bit frightening, to my mind."

"In what way?"

"He's certainly an un-
abashed cold warrior. Listen:

The Soviet threat has now become a threat to the very
nexus of western vitality—
political, economic and mili-
tary."

"But don't you think there is a Soviet threat?" I inquired.

"I think," she said, "that the Russians are even more reactionary and defensive than American conservatives. The invasion of Afghanistan and the bullying moves towards Poland are products of the same nervousness, the same wish to keep the supports of their allies, as American support for right-wing regimes in Asia, Latin America and Iran. Brezhnev and Reagan, should they meet, will find they have much in common."

"And Haig?" I asked.

"Haig too. He's another
excerpt from that collection of
his statements. He was talking
about human rights. It
neither serves the purpose of
social justice nor the vital
interests of America to pursue
policies which have the effect
of human rights have the
practical consequences of
driving authoritarian regimes,
traditionally friendly to the
west, into totalitarian models

where they will remain in a
state of permanent hostility
to the American people and
our interests."

"Ah," I said. "There he was
paraphrasing an article in
Commentary about a year ago
by Jean Kirkpatrick, the
academic who's just been
appointed American Ambassa-
dor to the United Nations."

"Commentary seems to be a
seminal journal if you want to
understand the new thinking in
Washington. You must bring it
home from the office for me,"
said Hilda.

"You'd only eat it," I
retorted. "I'm longing to see
how Mrs Kirkpatrick fares at
the very different from Andy Young
and Don McHenry, her pre-
decessors. To judge from her
writing, she's much wedded to
the 'our side—your side' view
of diplomacy."

"Do you see all this in the
new year?" asked Hilda.

"I think so. The liberals may
be of fashion but as the
Hoffmann article and others
of like it show, they aren't going
to play dead. I foresee a lot of
criticism of Haig, and of

Richard Allen, the new
national security adviser, who
personifies the whole Reagan
approach to foreign affairs."

"Wasn't he once a Washing-
ton lobbyist for the old regime
in Portugal?"

"He was and he's unrepentant. Not long before the elec-
tion he told the *Wall Street*
Journal that the Vietnam
massacre in Mozambique in
December 1972 was a piece of
misinformation—planted by
Czech propagandists. In fact it
was well documented by about
30 survivors."

"We can only hope then,"
she declared, "that these
people grow more megalomaniac
and moderate in office. It sometimes
happens."

"I'll drink to that," I
replied, reaching for the last
bottle of champagne.

It had an especially noisy
cork. As I popped it, Hilda
scurried into the bathroom
box in the corner of her
cage, which serves as her
refuge. She clapped her paws
to her ears.

"Mr. God," she squeaked,
"Don't tell me it's started
already."

Michael Heapman

Lord Chalfont

Worse even than hunger,
a life of liberty denied

This seems as good a time as any to remind ourselves of some of the principles and assumptions which are at the heart of the current debate about defence, deterrence and disarmament. In the industrial exchange of political and military testimony there is a tendency to mistake facts for truth and to isolate moral imperatives from the harsh realities of power and ambition.

When the Pope declared in his New Year message that world peace depended on the brotherhood of man and not on the balance of terror, he was articulating a profound Christian conviction; he was not, however, describing the real world. It is important, at the risk of sharing the fate of Cassandra, to declare that if we persist in believing that a peaceful world is attainable by the expression of simple faith of popular will, we shall almost certainly perish.

Nowhere is this utopian fiction more obtrusive than in the so-called North-South dialogue, which derives from a deep and understandable concern for the poverty and degradation of much of the develop-
ing world.

The hunger, disease and despair of millions of human beings are an affront to the civilised conscience, but it is a mockery of their suffering to suggest that it can be eradicated by instructing the industrial powers to desist from spending their money on armaments and superfluous consumer goods and to devote it instead to clinics and hospitals for the Third World. This is to ignore, among other important factors, the real and justifiable fear of those who feel threatened not by poverty but by the central and decisive conflict of the twentieth century—the struggle between liberty and tyranny.

No one who has lived in India or South America needs to be reminded that when freedom means only freedom to starve, it is a condition of dubious value. Yet it can be argued that the denial of human liberty is an even greater deprivation than the denial of material needs. No one who has not lived in a totalitarian dictatorship can begin to imagine the crushing spiritual despair of existence in a barren wilderness of the soul where, at the end of every excursion into nonconformity or dissent, lies the prison camp or the gallows.

It is, as Vladimir Bukovsky has testified, the ultimate human tragedy—a universal and apparently inescapable inhibition of hope more terrible than famine or plague; certainly different in dimension and in kind from recession, inflation, unemployment and the other transient disasters of industrial society.

There are, of course, differing views about the relative effects upon the human condition of crushing poverty on the one hand and the denial of liberty on the other. There is, however, one clear and important difference. While both inspire pity in the free and afflicted, only one inspires fear. The world of the demand and deserve our help; but it will be of little use if,

while giving it, we lay both them and ourselves open to the crippling infection of tyranny. For it cannot be seriously denied that the country in which the denial of individual freedom has been elevated into a political philosophy and organised into a system of government is also rapidly becoming the most powerful nation on earth. Furthermore, it has demonstrated on many occasions its readiness to use its military power to enlarge the dominion of its political system.

There is a fashionable argument to the effect that it is no more valid to deduce evidence of aggressive intent from Soviet military power than from American or western military power. This seems to be wilfully to ignore not only the openly declared ambitions of successive Soviet political leaders but also the presence of Soviet and surrogate forces in Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia, the brutal invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and the massive concentration of military forces on the borders of Poland as soon as it seemed possible that the Polish Communist Party might cease to exercise absolute power.

No one can ignore the possibility that Soviet policy is what it appears... that it is determined to impose its system on the rest.

Meanwhile the United States, for all its military strength, has so far proved unable, or unwilling, to avoid humiliation at the hands of the erratic and irrational rulers of a fifth-rate Asian republic.

It is, of course, possible to argue that the most blatant aggression by the Russians is motivated by a sense of insecurity and is therefore ultimately defensive in nature. Although this is an implausible proposition, it cannot be rejected out of hand; it must indeed be at the heart of western relations with the Soviet Union. Yet no responsible western statesman can ignore the possibility that Soviet foreign policy is precisely what it appears—aggressive, opportunistic and expansionist; and that the Soviet Union, given the opportunity to impose its own political system on the rest of the world—if necessary by force.

Until the Soviet Union demonstrates beyond doubt that it has no such intent, it is surely reasonable to suggest that the West should equip itself with an adequate military defence, since history provides evidence of any other effective deterrent against military attack; and although effective

security must depend upon alliances and other collective arrangements, in the final analysis the defence of Britain is the concern of the British government.

The most important single responsibility of any sovereign government is the safety of its people. It is in this context that the recent reemergence of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament takes on a significance. The danger is that the uproar about nuclear weapons might obscure the fact that British defence policy as a whole is rapidly approaching a condition of disarray.

Once again the alleged need for "economics" in the defence budget is leading to some notably eccentric behaviour. While a new strategic nuclear missile system is to be acquired at substantial cost, all three services are threatened with the cancellation of equipment programmes which are essential to the continued effectiveness of our conventional defences in such critical areas as maritime warfare, the air defence of the United Kingdom and the contribution made by the British Army of the Rhine to the defence of western Europe.

This might be taken to imply a certain deficiency of coherent analysis and policy formulation. The House of Lords, with the participation of members of the House of Commons and the full cooperation of the Ministry of Defence, has recently been saying some of the problems. Some of the fault undoubtedly lies in the perpetuation of a system in which the Chiefs of Staff are obliged to engage in a constant battle among themselves for diminishing resources to the inevitable detriment of their vital function as professional advisers to the Government.

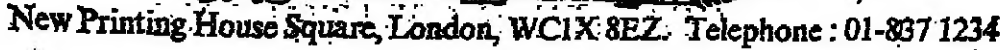
The basic weakness, however, has been political—the equivocal and ambivalent attitude of successive governments to the vital issue of nuclear security. As a result public opinion about defence has tended to fluctuate between apathy and ignorance. It is indeed only recently that there has been any substantial disposition to recognise that there is a real and present danger to our freedom. There are still those who deny that there is any threat which justifies a defence policy based on nuclear deterrence. Some indeed reject the use of military force on any kind.

I used to agonise about the validity of these propositions, sometimes generically referred to as "better Red than dead". This Christmas, however, I spent much of my time in the company of a special girl, not yet three years old. The time may come when she has to make this kind of decision for herself, and the somewhat precocious indications are that she will make it wisely and well.

If, however, I had to advise her, I would urge to play safe, her choice there of nothing—nothing worse than a life in which, by the exercise of relentless tyranny, the precious gifts of liberty and dignity are denied.

The author is Chairman of the House of Lords All Party Defence Group.

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From Dr Charles Pither
Sir, It is, apparently, now impossible
to find anyone in this ancient uni-
versity town who can, or will, re-
launders a stiff white collar.
I am told that this is due to de-
clining demand and a paucity of
suitably skilled launders.
Am I to conclude that white
collar workers are a dying breed?
Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PITHER.
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hills Road,
Cambridge.
December 30.

Setting a new
course for
the shipbuilders
page 17

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
make ideas take shape

Stock markets	
FT 100	475.3
FT 100	475.3
FT 100	475.3
Sterling	
\$2.8815	
Index 78.6	
Dollar	
Index 85.5	
DM1.7785	
Gold	
558.9	
Money	
3 mth sterling	142.14
3 mth Euro	\$ 174.18
6 mth Euro	\$ 164.16
(Futures)	

Forecasts predict rising jobless and further fall in real incomes

By Melvyn Westlake

In marked contrast to the optimistic tone of the New Year message from government ministers, the economic forecasts of 1981 are unacceptably gloomy about Britain's economic prospects for some time to come.

Unemployment will rise relentlessly throughout much of the 1980s, to reach 3.7 million by the end of the decade, according to Cambridge Econometrics, whose forecast is published today.

Those people who remain in work can expect a steady increase in their real wages. However, because of the rising number of jobless, total real incomes in the economy will drop in 1981, as they did in 1980.

By 1984, as much as half of the revenue from North Sea oil taxes may be spent on unemployment-related social security benefits.

This depressing prognosis is not confined to academic forecasters. City stockbrokers Phillips and Drew foresee unemployment approaching three million by the end of this year.

In their latest forecasts, also published today, Phillips and Drew say: "There seems virtually no possibility of a sharp fall in the unemployment rate at any time in the next few years—especially if the present deflationary policy stance remains intact".

The current recession in manufacturing industry is set to be sharper than the last depression of 1929-31, Phillips and Drew say—it expects the cumulative decline in manufacturing output to reach 14 per cent between 1979 and 1981, the sharpest decline in manufacturing output this century.

The equivalent drop in 1929-31 was 11 per cent.

The alarming depth of the present recession comes immediately after a decade in which the United Kingdom appears to have recorded its worst manufacturing performance since the industrial revolution.

tion. In the period 1970-80, manufacturing output actually fell by 3 per cent. In no decade since 1810 has manufacturing output grown by less than 10 per cent, Phillips and Drew say.

Britain's total output of goods and services is likely to fall by 6 per cent in 1981 and 1982, taken together compared with a fall of 7 per cent in 1979-81. Furthermore, the prospect of a rapid and sustained recovery from recession, which characterised the 1930s, looks much less likely in the 1980s, unless government policy is aimed directly at reversing industrial decline.

United Kingdom industrial output, relative to world output, fell by more in the 1970-80 period than in any other decade this century.

In relation to the other major industrial countries, output in Britain has halved since 1950, Cambridge Econometrics believes that a turning point will come in 1981, but any recovery will be hesitant and led by services and consumer-oriented industries.

The outlook for inflation remains the main bright spot. Cambridge Econometrics expects the average rate in 1981 to be 10.7 per cent, down from 12.7 per cent in 1980.

This is echoed by Phillips and Drew, which forecasts consumer prices rising 10.7 per cent this year, compared with 15.8 per cent in 1980.

In separate forecasts, James Capel, another City stockbroker, says that as long as the economy is in recession, there is little chance of the Government meeting any of the targets laid down in the medium-term financial strategy launched at the time of the last Budget.

James Capel sees a danger that the Government may be forced to embark on an expansionary Budget precisely at the moment that world commodity prices are picking up, which would have disastrous consequences for the long-term rate of inflation in Britain.



Mr. Alan Curtis: Sales Director of Aston's best interests

Petrol chief takes over Aston Martin

By Our Industrial Staff

Aston Martin Lagonda, the Buckinghamshire-based quality car manufacturer, is to be sold to Mr. Victor Gamble, chairman of Pace Petroleum and as yet unnamed partner.

Mr. Alan Curtis, managing director and a principal shareholder, said last night that he and Mr. Peter Sprague, his co-owner, thought that the sale was in the best interests of the company.

Mr. Curtis and Mr. Sprague rescued Aston Martin from financial collapse in 1975 when the then Labour Government refused funds to keep the company going. Mr. Curtis said it was never their intention to maintain long-term financial stake. Earlier this year he and Mr. Sprague decided to seek new investors to enable the company to develop.

After extensive restructuring under Mr. Curtis's guidance, Aston Martin's finances recovered sufficiently for it to re-secure its MG car subsidiary from British Leyland in 1979, but this proved unsuccessful.

After a number of redundancies and several months of three-day working, the company recently returned to a five-day week. It is now producing four cars a week against an expanding order book in which export sales figure predominantly.

Mr. Curtis would not reveal the price which is being paid for Aston Martin, but reports suggest that it is about £3m.

Code of practice on TV air time soon

By David Hewson

The methods used by independent television companies when selling air time are likely to be regulated by a code of practice agreed by the industry within a year.

After concern from the advertising industry about the underselling of air time by some companies to force up rates, there has been pressure for some form of agreed procedure on selling practices.

As a result of representations from the Home Office, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) set up an advertising liaison committee last year on which independent television companies, the Association of Television Contractors (ATC), the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA), and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA) are represented.

This committee, which meets under the chairmanship of Lord Thompson of Monifieth, chairman of the IBA, is expected to produce the guidelines on selling air time some time this year.

The concern of advertisers about selling practices was aired earlier this year when the IPA set up a group of media directors

who monitored the amount of time being sold during the peak hours of 5 pm to 11 pm.

It found that three companies were raising to sell some peak time and forcing up rates for other periods.

There has also been criticism by advertisers of joint selling agreements which exist between Tynes and Yorkshire and Scottish Television and Grampian, and the packaging of peak and off-peak times.

There was strong pressure from advertisers during the passage of the Broadcasting Bill last year for the introduction of competitive selling of air time through independent companies. A number of amendments to this effect were unsuccessful.

Mr. Kenneth Miles, director of ISBA, said that the agreement of guidelines by the advertising liaison committee "would make quite a difference to a period in which advertisers and television companies have been at odds with each other".

"The liaison committee for the first time seriously involves the IBA in understanding and contributing to thinking about the selling of air time."

standing and contributing to thinking about the selling of air time."

"It is greatly encouraging that the ITV companies do see that they need to answer some questions in a slightly more public way than in the past."

Mr. Miles said that the award of new franchises last month and the current disappointing advertising revenues made it a good time to reach agreement on selling practices.

The ISBA will be pressing separately for an end to the joint selling agreement between Tynes and Yorkshire as part of the separation of the two companies, now owned by Irident, which has been ordered by the IBA.

Though the IBA has decided that the two companies must be autonomous, it has indicated that it is willing to consider the continuation of the joint selling agreement.

The system was introduced because of a clash of areas between the two companies in north Yorkshire which might make individual selling arrangements reflect unfavourably on the revenues of one of the companies.

British Shipbuilders hopeful of £70m Occidental platform orders

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

British Shipbuilders is poised to submit a tender for a £70m production platform for the North Sea, and secure work for thousands of workers on Merseyside and on the Clyde.

Securing the order from Occidental is of vital importance to the loss-making state shipbuilding corporation if it is to gain a strong foothold in the offshore oil market and prevent a further rundown of its labour force.

BS has been discussing the project with Occidental for several months and executives of the oil company have said that they will be happy to place the contract with BS.

Occidental is expected to decide on the order this spring. It forms part of the planned £625m North Sea oil-related investment announced last year by Dr. Armand Hammer, the group's chairman, during a visit by Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister, to the oil terminal at Flom in Orkney.

Occidental has already ordered a £250,000 seabed drilling platform from Blackwell Engineering, a BS subsidiary, for extensions at the Claymore field. The production platform will be a pioneering project

and of a semi-submersible design.

But competition for the contract is expected to be very tough with yards in Europe and the Far East submitting tenders before the closing date on January 15.

British Shipbuilders, which this year is expected to lose about £100m, has set up an offshore division centred on the Scott Lithgow yards on the lower Clyde and headed by Mr. Cameron Parker.

In the past few months the strength of sterling and the inability of BS to use the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund to narrow the price gap between its prices and those of its competitors for rig contracts has led to a number of valuable orders going overseas.

Last month orders for semi-submersible contracts worth £80m were placed by the United Kingdom companies of Ben Line and Houlder Offshore with the South Korean yard of Daewoo Shipbuilding.

While giving the contract to South Korea on price grounds, Ben Line acknowledged that the BS tender submission was by far the most comprehensive it had received. The Scott Lithgow yard which received a

Minister's warning on dumping

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

The world trade recession could encourage dumping by foreign manufacturers, Mr. Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade, said yesterday when he launched a government campaign to help British industry make more effective use of the European Commission's anti-dumping procedures.

Mr. Parkinson said the Government was already pressing for the Commission's unit investigating anti-dumping cases to be enlarged to speed up handling of cases.

The Commission's unit has 25 dumping cases under investigation, most of them affecting sectors of British industry. Investigations by a staff of around 20 take between six and nine months.

The Government's campaign to clear the path of industrial sectors or companies seeking anti-dumping action is taking the form of an information pack which emphasises the assistance available in presenting anti-dumping cases from the Department of Trade's own anti-dumping unit.

"Dumping—What Can We Do?" free from Department of Trade Anti-Dumping Unit, Room 449, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET.

Banks lend less to industry

Banks lent more money to financial services and personal sectors during the three months to mid-November, but less to manufacturing and other production sectors, according to a breakdown of bank lending published by the Bank of England.

During the period, sterling advances and acceptances to United Kingdom residents rose by £589m or 1.1 per cent, compared to a rise of £3,106m (6.3 per cent) in the previous three months. This slowdown in the rate of growth is much less pronounced after allowance for seasonal adjustment.

The services sector accounted for the largest share of the increase in lending (before seasonal adjustment), increasing its borrowing by £460m or 3 per cent, against 6.5 per cent in the previous three months.

There was a stable increase in lending to retail distribution (£204m or 7.5 per cent) and to the professional, scientific and miscellaneous category, which includes leasing (£215m or 3.4 per cent).

Lending to individuals rose again by £374m or 4.3 per cent, but lending to manufacturing fell by £391m or 2.6 per cent, spread among all categories.

Pineapple surplus
Japan should not be blamed for the 600,000 cartons of canned pineapples worth \$7m (£2.5m) that were lying in a warehouse in Johore Bahru, 170 miles south of Kuala Lumpur, the Japanese embassy said.

The canneries say the pineapples were in danger of being wasted because Japan had not announced the quota for import of Malaysian pineapples to Japan for the second half of 1980.

£7m office block
A 14-storey office tower block costing £7m is to be built in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, by Al-Esawi Self Norman Douglas Company, an associated company of R. M. Douglas Construction, the Birmingham engineering and building contractor. The block, to be known as Alizira Tower, is for Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Alizira. Work will start early this year.

Opel price cut
Opel, the West German subsidiary of General Motors, is cutting the prices of most of its car models. By reducing prices and offering as standard equipment what had previously been listed as extras, Opel claims that buyers will save up to 400 Deutsche marks (£85) on a Kadaver car and up to £11,600 (£340) on a Commodore model.

Crude imports down
The American Petroleum Institute said crude oil imports fell 135,000 barrels to 5,120,000 barrels a day in the week ending December 26. Crude oil stocks were 374,588 barrels for the week, compared with 371,588 the previous week.

Arab oil fund
A conference of the finance ministers of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, opened at the weekend to consider appointing a \$500m (£2,633m) fund among poorer Arab states.

Prime rate up
The Development Bank of Singapore is to raise its prime lending rate to 14 per cent from 13 per cent today. Other local banks with primes of 13 per cent are expected to follow suit, money market dealers said.

France cuts gas target
The French Government has decided to reduce an earlier objective for natural gas consumption. It has instructed Gaz de France to restrict its sales to ensure that by 1990, gas will account for 15 per cent of overall energy consumption instead of 17 per cent.

Electronics sales to top £42,000m

By John Huxley

Sales of electronics equipment and components in Western Europe are set to exceed \$100,000m (£42,000m) for the first time in 1981, according to an industry survey published today.

The survey by Luton-based Mackintosh Publications indicates that sales will rise from \$92,000m to \$103,000m, and continue to grow at a rate of between 11 and 12 per cent until 1984. The highest rate of growth will be in the West German market, where a predicted 13 per cent increase will produce total sales in 1981 of \$27,000m.

The forecast growth of the United Kingdom electronics market is out at 13 per cent in 1981, with sales approaching \$20,000m. Although there is a 13 per cent increase in British markets by overseas suppliers of electronics equipment and components, the report points to a bright future for British suppliers.

According to Mackintosh, the United Kingdom has increased its share of the total European market from less than 16 per cent in 1978 to 19 per cent in 1980.

The report says that high growth in the electronics market is possible despite a generally gloomy economic outlook, which suggests that the combined gross domestic product for the Western European countries will increase by only one per cent in 1981.

The electronic data processing (EDP) sector is expected to provide the greatest impetus for growth, with the European market growing at an annual rate of more than 21 per cent.

By contrast, the authors of the report see consumer equipment as a "continuing problem area". The market here is expected to remain virtually static between now and 1984 at about \$15,000m.

Sales of video games, for example, will now begin to tail off, especially rapidly in the United Kingdom, which has been accounting for more than 30 per cent of total sales.

"Mackintosh Yearbook of West European Electronics Data 1981, 1980, 1979, Publications, Mackintosh House, Napier Road, Luton LU1 1RG.

Engineering employers oppose sick pay plan

By Our Management Correspondent

The Engineering Employers' Federation is to oppose government proposals to shift sick pay responsibilities from the employer to the employee.

The EEF argues that this would enable employers with a high proportion of office and other non-manual employees to make a profit out of the scheme. It points out that in manufacturing industry as a whole, recorded absence sickness averages about 7 per cent while that of office employees is about 3 per cent.

Instead of a general reduction, the EEF proposes that rebates should be issued to employers on a pro rata basis. Its alternative proposal is that employers should pay on the appropriate level of sick pay to sick employees, and, with proper supporting documentation, deduct the total from their next monthly National Insurance contribution.

The engineering employers say their alternative would still meet the Government's wish to avoid the double-handling of sick pay claims and enable as many as 3,000 Civil Service jobs to be axed.

Immunisation rates of £30 a week for eight weeks.

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£56m loans for projects in Britain

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Jan 4

The European Investment Bank has granted loans of £56m for projects in Britain. The biggest borrower is the National Water Council which gets £24.5m for lending to regional water authorities in north west England, south west England and Wales.

British Nuclear Fuels is borrowing £20m to help in financing its share in the Urenco Gas Centrifuge uranium enrichment plant being built with West German and Dutch interests at Capenhurst in Cheshire.

The EIB, which is the Community's bank for long-term finance, has already lent £80m towards the Capenhurst project because of its importance in reducing the EEC's dependence on imported oil.

A £3m loan goes to Lancashire County Council to build part of the M63, the Valley motorway between Bury and Nelson, Edinburgh is borrowing £4m to finance a slaughterhouse complex.

NEDO backs demands for cheaper energy

By Patricia Tisdall

Influential backing for industry's case for cheaper energy prices is likely to be given by the National Economic Development Council this week.

New information released to the council will show that large energy consumers in the United Kingdom are paying higher prices than their counterparts in Europe.

On the basis of this, the NEDC will be asked to recommend an urgent review of pricing policies.

Research comparing energy prices in the rest of the EEC to those paid by British users was commissioned in August by the National Economic Development Office, which provides the secretariat and support staff for the council.

This shows that there are some significant differences in the bulk discounts and special price arrangements which can be negotiated by large users on the Continent compared to those in the United Kingdom.

A NEDO paper summarising the research will be presented to the council during a discussion on energy costs on Wednesday. It is believed to show that several industry sectors, in particular iron and steel, paper and board, foundries and chemicals, are at a disadvantage in the prices they pay for electricity and gas.

The NEDO paper is understood to recommend a number of options to the Government to redress the balance. One of these is the removal of excise duty on heavy oil. Another is to charge the gas and electricity corporations to restructure tariffs to help large users.

The NEDO research will augment data collected by the Confederation of British Industry, based on prices paid at given dates on reports from some 25 multinational corporations. While the CBI maintains that this shows that British manufacturers pay more in a number of areas, the arguments have not yet far convinced the Government.

The CBI research was recently criticised by MPs in a Commons select committee on energy as contradictory, confused and "skating round the problem".

Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI's director general, has repeatedly stressed the difficulties of obtaining reliable and up-to-date information in what, for most companies, is commercially a highly confidential area. It is understood he will tell the NEDC meeting that the CBI will produce an updated version of data from another survey to be undertaken later this month.

Senate committee chief likely to give commodity speculators free rein

Republican support for a new gold standard

The assorted committees of the United States Senate start work under their new Republican Party leaders this week, and gold and silver enthusiasts are looking forward to developments. Their champion, Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, will be the new chairman of the Agricultural Committee which has wide powers over the commodity markets.

This senator is an ardent enthusiast of free enterprise as well as being convinced of the merits of reestablishing a global monetary system based squarely upon gold.

Operators in the commodity markets have feared that their freedom of action would be curbed sharply after the silver price turmoil of 1980. Now they can relax and Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt, whose heavy buying of silver preceded the price collapse can concentrate on striving to develop his theories. He said the other day that he was convinced that the time would come when one ounce of gold was worth no more than five ounces of silver. Currently gold is worth 31 times more than silver.

The leading monetary experts are dismissive of suggestions of any revival of an official role for gold. Like the gold enthusiasts, they admit that the monetary system needs reform and greater stability, but they have no taste for the yellow metal.

At a recent conference sponsored in Philadelphia by the Global Interdependence Centre it was clear that such respected figures as Dr. Johannes Witteveen, former head of the IMF; Professor Peter Kenen and Professor Robert Triffin, were all committed to a much stronger special drawing rights (SDR) system.

The IMF will move in coming weeks to try to increase respect for the SDR. Decisions on raising the interest rate yield on the unit, on allowing more institutions to hold it, on possibly creating more SDRs and on trying to sell SDR denominated securities may all be taken by the Fund this year.

But as the Fund, with establishment backing, moves to press the claims of the SDR, so the formidable Senator Helms will move in on gold.

The Fund's ideas may get rough treatment from Congress. Many foreign governments not to mention the Fund's staff, may be dismayed to discover that Senator Helms is most able at twisting Reagan Administration arms and making the



Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt: still an optimist on the value of silver.

revival of an official role for gold at least a subject the United States authorities might be keen to discuss.

So far Senator Helms has not outlined how to establish a new gold standard, domestically or internationally, without causing severe deflation. He also must find answers to those critics who stress it is dangerous to leave our fortunes in the hands of the Soviet and South African governments, which control global gold supplies and which have policies repulsive to most Western nations and the Third World.

Hardest of all, the senator and his advisers will have to demonstrate why gold should add to stability. The price of the metal has been volatile in 1980. It ended 1979 just above \$500 an ounce, then soared far above \$500, and closed the year down around \$390. A Russian invasion of Poland, or further sharp Middle East tensions, could again send gold soaring.

The trouble for the gold enthusiasts is that its price is totally at the mercy of economic and political developments. Most speculators, including the flamboyant Mr. Hunt, are willing to acknowledge this.

He admits he does not know when one ounce of gold will reach a value equal to five ounces of silver, but he is certain this ratio will be established. "At that time, we hopefully might have such a sound paper currency that gold is again \$35 an ounce, and that would make silver worth \$7 an ounce."

"As I am sure you understand, I really don't expect to see gold at \$35, but I would hate to see it go to \$3,000, which a lot of smart people tell me is possible; because I can imagine what a lot of unrest will be in the world if it gets there."

Frank Vogt in Washington

Huge S China Sea oil find

Hongkong, Jan 4.—China has discovered huge offshore oil reserves in the north continental shelf of the South China Sea, according to reports reaching here quoting a Chinese oil official.

The reserves may be among the world's largest found through seismic surveys conducted jointly with foreign firms at a cost of more than \$60m (£25m).

Data reveal three main oil basins: the Tonkin Bay, Yinghe, and the Pearl River estuary covering more than 206,000 square kilometres.

China has signed an agreement with Total, the French oil company, for exploration in the north east of the Tonkin Bay, and the first test well would begin operating soon.

The corporation has also reached agreement in principle with Amoco, the American group, to open up the Yinghe basin. Altogether more than 50 foreign companies have offered to help China in developing the South China Sea oil basins.

Because of declining oil output, China may be unable to fulfil its promise to ship 15 million tons of crude oil to Japan this year, Agence France-Press.

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THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells	buys	sells
Australia \$	2.09	2.01	Norway Kr	12.78
Austria Sch	34.60	32.60	Portugal Esc	131.50
Belgium Fr	78.60	74.50	South Africa Rd	2.08
Canada \$	2.90	2.825	Spain Ptas	193.50
Denmark S	14.94	14.24	Sweden Kr	108.84
Finland Mk	9.85	9.10	Switzerland Fr	4.37
France Fr	11.15	10.70	USA \$	2.44
Germany DM	4.83	4.61	Yugoslavia Dnr	88.00
Greece Dr	132.00	125.00		
Hong Kong \$	12.60			
India Rs	22.00	21.24		
Italy Lit	2280.00	2180.00		
Japan Yn	506.00	480.00		

notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and bank of commerce business.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Running bids

Merchant bankers are not having quite so relaxed a start to this year with an unseasonal number of takeovers in the pending tray. Dominating the scene is Enserch's £143m approach to Davy Corporation, but there are several smaller bids rumbling on in the background such as Hanson's unwelcome move on Central Manufacturing and Trading; the third party intervention in AAH's agreed offer for Renwick; C & J Clark's attempt to lace up K Shoes; while Berisford's £124m designs on British Sugar are presently snarled up in the Monopolies Commission.

In part this is simply a reflection of the steady upturn in takeover activity in the last couple of years. After the boom year of 1972, when more than 1,200 companies worth £2,532m disappeared from public view, takeovers went out of fashion as companies became preoccupied with coping with higher oil prices and the recession. The hiatus lasted until 1978 since when the stronger stock market, which has seen only the best companies make paper offers but also made it easier to launch rights issues to fund acquisitions, has got things moving again.

In 1979 the value of takeovers reached £1,656m, more than four times the average of the lean years of the mid-1970s, although adjusting for inflation the figure is still well down on the halcyon days of the early 1970s. The latest official figures cover only the first nine months of 1980 but there has been no apparent let-up in the pace. The £406m blockbuster from British Petroleum for Selection Trust produced an especially buoyant third quarter and with several bigish bids since then—Bess's for Coral and Unigate's for Giltspur—last year looks as though it will be the best for more than a decade, in value if not in actual numbers of companies acquired.

Official attitudes

The pick-up has come at a time when official attitudes towards mergers and takeovers have changed markedly from the free-wheeling days of the 1960s and 1970s when they were viewed as one of the ways of improving Britain's industrial structure. Both the previous Labour Government and now even more forcibly the Conservatives, have become distinctly sceptical towards mergers, wanting to see real benefits flowing, particularly in the case of conglomerate mergers. The latest Monopolies Commission investigations seem to reflect this having become rather more capricious such as in the referral of Grand Metropolitan's bid for Coral.

Moreover, much of the academic research on the mergers of the 1960s and 1970s is inclined towards the view that many bidders would have done better had they not taken over others—Tate and Lyle seems to be the latest example only two years after the takeover of Manbire & Garton.

The underlying level of takeover activity may also be understated to the extent that last year's spate of dawn raids could be viewed as surrogate bids in the sense that companies were taking strategic stakes to keep their options open until the time was ripe—as the number of raids that matured into full bids subsequently seems to have proved. Now that that particular game has had the rules altered, acquisitive companies may have to revert to straight bids.

Apart from patently strategic takeovers—BPs for Selection Trust and the United States bids in the insurance broking sector—many of last year's acquisitions bear all the hallmarks of simply buying at the cheap, although in the case of Rascal/Decra and Thorn/EMI the two motives are mixed up. Nor does the strength of sterling seem to have deterred overseas buyers: Furness Withy has fallen to the charms of Mr C. Y. Tung while Enserch clearly feels that Davy's lean times at present are too good a buying opportunity to allow currency factors to put it off.

Contested offers

Despite strained corporate liquidity (and a relatively strong stock market) there has been no reversal of the trend of much of the 1970s towards financing takeovers by cash rather than issuing paper—around 55 per

cent compared with less than half that figure a decade ago.

Perhaps the option to offer cash is one reason why a growing number of companies seem prepared to press ahead with contested bids which at one stage, as the Takeover Panel flexed its muscles, appeared to be less and less likely of success if the board of bid-for company opposed the approach.

So there seems no reason not to suppose that takeover activity will start to increase, especially as past experience seems to show that spending increases not just when cheap assets are on offer but when business confidence picks up. Assuming that many companies, even in the hard-pressed manufacturing sector, are now through the eye of the storm those in a relatively stronger position may already be talking more seriously to their merchant banks.

Enserch Corporation's £143m offer for Davy, a leading British process plant contractor (which is strongly opposed by the Davy board), will be up towards the middle of this month when S. G. Warburg, who are advising the Americans, send out formal documents.

Davy plans to spell out its defence in detail at that point which, unless there is a reference to the Monopolies Commission, will be based on the view that Davy is well able to compete independently for international contracts.

That of course counters the main plank of the Enserch case that Davy, despite its acquisition of McKee Corp a couple of years ago, will be too small to compete effectively for the sort of contracts that are going to be available during the 1980s, but that a combination of Davy and Enserch's own Ebasco contracting business would create a business at large as almost any in the field.

Tempting Davy shareholders

Assuming no reference, however, Davy will be forced back on either trying to produce a friendly merger with someone else or making out a defence case based on prospects following last year's disappointing profits setback. In an open-market situation, Davy must know that its shareholders will be tempted by an offer which is perhaps two-thirds above the underlying trading price at this stage of the engineering recession.

Among last year's dawn raid targets, one that looks like escaping by jumping into the arms of another company is K Shoes. Ward White, another shoemaker, bought nearly 15 per cent of K Shoes in October. Subsequently, the privately owned West Country shoe group C. & J. Clark stepped in and agreed a £22.4m cash bid with a relieved K Shoes.

It is not yet certain that Clark's offer will go through. Speculation in recent weeks has pushed shares in K Shoes above 100p against the 95p bid price.

A number of companies fallen on hard times and suffering from the impact of the recession have found themselves on the end of takeover bids and in a number of cases contested ones. Today is the first closing date for Hanson Trust's £13m bid for Central Manufacturing & Trading, the loss-making industrial holding group. Hanson already has 13.3 per cent of CMT, but CMT is vigorously defending what it considers an opportunistic bid while Caparo, the private investment company, has built up a 19.5 per cent stake in CMT and is against the bid.

A rival bid could be on the way for Record Ridgway, the loss-making Sheffield hand tools company. Bahco of Sweden has already bid £4.1m cash and bought nearly 10 per cent in the market but Record Ridgway has now received another approach which could lead to an offer.

Meanwhile, the outcome of AAH's agreed 65p share bid for Renwick has been thrown into doubt following heavy share buying through stockbrokers. A. J. Bekhor on behalf of a number of mysterious investors at prices up to 85p. Udo Bank of Zurich, it was revealed last week, held 22.5 per cent of Renwick on behalf of six "unrelated" clients and shortly after it was announced that Kangra International Holdings, registered in Hongkong, held 14.97 per cent. It remains to be seen whether a counter-bidder emerges. Meanwhile the first closing date for AAH's bid is today.

A few years ago the bows of supertankers towered over the terraced houses which cluster round the shipyards of Swan Hunter on Tyne-side. The chatter of the riveting hammer reverberated around the yards and streets which surrounded them with the cascades of sparks from the welding torches a familiar sight.

Those were the good days, when Britain was the world's biggest shipbuilder and when owners queued up for a slipway.

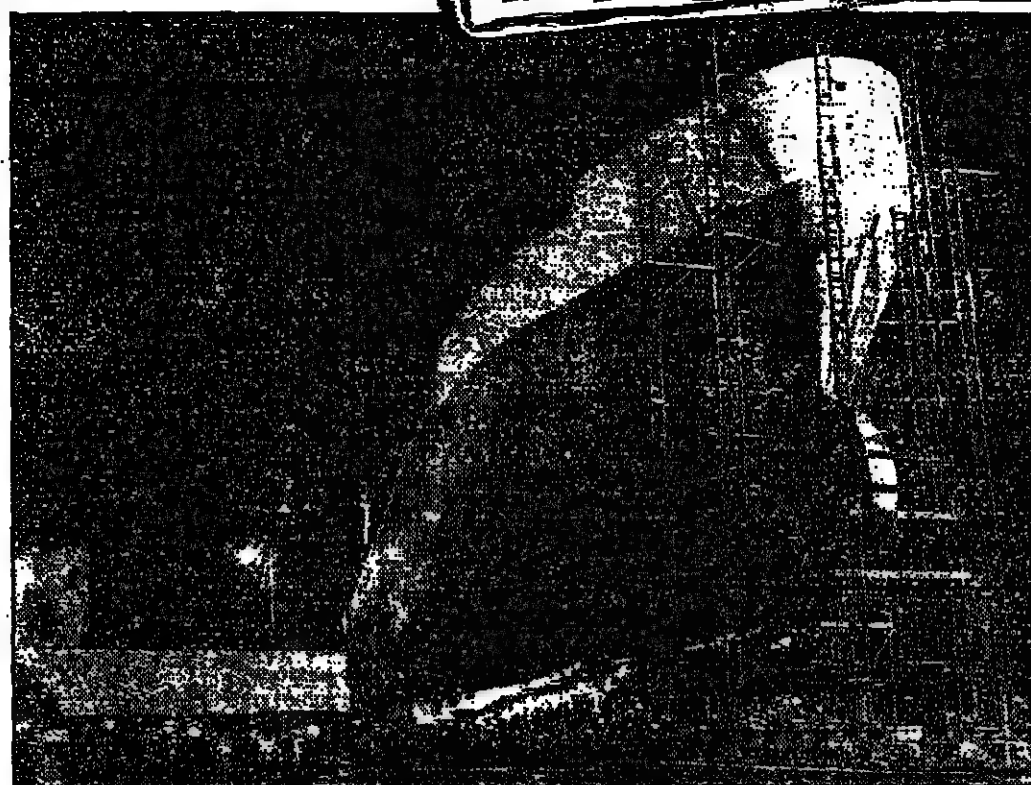
Today the shipbuilding industry is on its beam ends. Most of the building berths on Tyne-side are empty; the giant cranes are idle and those shipyard workers who have not become a victim of the recession and taken their redundancy wonder whether it will be the loss of their job, or a new contract which comes first.

The competition for orders is fierce, and Japan and emergent shipbuilding nations in the Far East are swallowing up a worrying volume of the available work. Last week it was reported that in 1980 Britain's shipyards had produced the lowest volume of new ships for 50 years.

But while the industry suffers from a shortage of orders and the problems of unemployment, the industry's research and development continues to beat strongly. It is hoped that its efforts will lead to the re-emergence of a tough competitive and vigorous shipbuilding industry able to offer to owners ships which are efficient users of fuel, highly automated and competitively priced.

Tucked away by the banks of the Tyne at Wallsend, the 300 or so naval architects, computer specialists, marine engineers, metallurgists and mathematicians of the British Ship Research Association are pursuing a range of research projects which will have worldwide repercussions and should help to preserve the home industry.

The association, set up in pre-nationalization days and funded by the industry, is a research and development organization committed to pass on technology which will help the British shipping and shipbuilding industries. Since nationalization of the shipbuilding industry three years ago its organizational relationship with British Shipbuilders has been, to say the least, confused, but it is hoped that the links will be clarified in the course of the next few months.



A once familiar sight in the yards around Britain: last year the number of UK-built ships was the lowest for 50 years.

Peter Hill

Can research set British Shipbuilders on a new course?

Changes are already taking place, not least a greater drive to secure research projects from overseas clients—without any conflict with the organization's main task of providing the domestic industry with expertise and detailed research and development assistance.

Among projects now under way at the BSRA is one concerned with applying the micro-processor to maritime use. This is likely to lead to the introduction of a new generation of highly automated merchant

ships with substantially reduced manning levels.

Predictably, Japan has already made a practical start on the automated ship. Last year it introduced three container ships running between Japan and Australia with a crew complement of 18 and a design target of a total crew of 12.

Experts at the BSRA believe that it will be some years before manning levels can be brought down to single figures (this will in any case be influenced by ship types and the

routes on which they are deployed), but lower manning levels will soon become more widespread.

Owners will need greater automation because of the effects of inflation and the level of living standards in industrialized countries, which, ultimately, are reflected, at least partly, in charter rates and the competitiveness of a country's merchant fleet.

So, working on a programme sponsored by British Shipbuilders, experts at the association have over the past two

and a half years been engaged in work which has included a preliminary study for an automated petroleum products tanker. They are attempting to define, in operational terms, the likely automation requirements for the ships of the future.

An evaluation of the application of microprocessors to cargo handling has already been carried out. This is a particularly fruitful area, as eventually the new technology could remove much of the drudgery of documentation and significantly reduce the time at present involved in working out cargo loading and unloading patterns.

This can be a complicated matter in the case of chemical products tankers, for example, involving partial discharge of certain tanks and topping up of others at different ports of call.

The feasibility of incorporating certain typical operations, such as the washing of a ship's tanks into an automation system so that they can be controlled by an operator from a single keyboard, is also being examined.

Meanwhile, late last year the organization began another research project, again funded by British Shipbuilders, on the manoeuvrability characteristics of ships. The aim is to identify characteristics which are known to be present in ships which have good manoeuvrability so that they can then be incorporated into future ship designs.

This work is set against the background of recommendations issued 12 years ago by the United Nations-sponsored Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization which suggested that large ships (and particularly large oil tankers) should carry on their bridge a booklet outlining the vessel's manoeuvrability characteristics to help both the ship's master and pilot.

Those recommendations have still to be ratified by member states, but there is a belief in maritime circles that problems caused by inadequate manoeuvrability may well soon result in such recommendations being generally introduced.

In Wallsend, therefore, in an area which has long been a centre of British shipbuilding and which has shared in its achievements in the past, the groundwork is now fast being laid for developments which offer genuine hope for Britain in the future.

Brazilian drive to exploit the land

Sao Paulo To keep pace with growing food consumption at home, increase export revenues, and produce the equivalent of at least 300,000 barrels of oil a day from biomass (vegetable) sources Brazil is going to have to cultivate an extra 11 million acres of land, an area the size of Holland, each year from now on.

At present, Brazil cultivates only about 12 per cent of its available land, much of this at very low productivity, leaving large scope for improvement. Nevertheless, it increased farm output by virtually 10 per cent last year and there was a record grain harvest of 51 million tons. Some 57,000m is estimated to have been earned from exports of basic farm products, \$10,000m if processed foods and products such as orange juice, instant coffee, frozen chickens and tobacco are included.

Brazil has also halved her food import bill from 1979's \$2,000m with 70 per cent of food imports last year represented by wheat, which is still subsidised.

There are ambitious plans to grow wheat on the dry lands of the centre, which can be very productive for the three years out of four when they are not affected by drought, but Brazil will probably remain a wheat importer for some time.

As well as incorporating new lands, to which there is a limit and a measure which often exacerbates already severe tensions in the countryside, Brazil

is now doing its best to raise productivity. It is investing heavily in research, through a network of institutes. These are working on the development of new plant strains and land use techniques. Particular interest is being shown in the dry, but potentially productive, lands of the Cerrados of the centre, which form a third of Brazil, and the semi-arid north-east.

But perhaps the most important move of all has been a profound change in the philosophy of taxing farmers. A progressive tax on underused land has been introduced, devised by the land reform and colonization agency, Incra. It will increasingly penalize farmers who are not sufficiently productive.

In previous years 90 per cent of Incra's tax revenue came from small farms, because the land on small farms tends to be more valuable than that on larger ones. Now, however, 80 per cent of Brazil's four million farmers will not pay any tax at all, while large landowners who do not cultivate at least 10 per cent of their holdings will be taxed in the first year at 3.5 per cent of the value, then double that in each succeeding year.

Mr Paulo Yokota, the Incra president, says bluntly that the aim of the tax is to force speculators and farmers to start farming their land properly or else to rent or sell them to someone who will.

As in most countries afflicted with very high inflation—and Brazil's is now running at more than 100 per cent a year—land

has been a favourite refuge for speculators and the cost has soared far above productivity increases in recent years.

In force for less than a year, the new tax has already caused an outcry from such powerful bodies as the Amazonian landowners association, and various cattle-breeder associations, one of which has said that it will force the sale of land to multinationals, which is as emotive a criticism as one can use in Brazil.

Mr Yokota hopes that besides forcing many farms to become more productive, the new tax will also force down the price of land.

A side-effect of the tax is that it will no longer be sensible for farmers to claim on their income tax return that they are growing and earning less than they actually are. If they do, they will be liable for the new tax.

Serious farmers will not be hit by the new measure and it is difficult to have much sympathy for the complaining landowners, some of whom claim that the tax bill has risen by 1,000 per cent this year. Any investment can be set off against the area of the largest farms needs to be cultivated to avoid the levy, the new tax is probably about as far as this government dares go. It relies largely for its majority on the votes of large rural landowners and the workers they can persuade to vote the way they want.

It cannot afford to alienate this group too much. On the other hand, the need to grow more food, and use more land for other economic necessities, cannot be resisted, despite the political risk. Brazil needs to plant about 4 million acres of new forest each year from now on, triple the present amount, to meet the demand for wood and charcoal for industry. About 5 million acres of extra land has to be devoted to sugar cane each year, if the alcohol to fuel 400,000 new cars each year is to be available. Huge new plantations of oil palm are to be established in Amazonia, to produce a vegetable oil which can be mixed with diesel. Brazil plans to increase total exports from last year's \$20,000m to \$25,000m this year.

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Brazil needs to plant about 4 million acres of new forest each year from now on, triple the present amount, to meet the demand for wood and charcoal for industry. About 5 million acres of extra land has to be devoted to sugar cane each year, if the alcohol to fuel 400,000 new cars each year is to be available.

Huge new plantations of oil palm are to be established in Amazonia, to produce a vegetable oil which can be mixed with diesel.

Brazil plans to increase total exports from last year's \$20,000m to \$25,000m this year.

and to maintain a 30 per cent increase for the foreseeable future, as one means of making inroads into the massive foreign debt or at least preventing it from growing further.

The population continues to grow and, as living standards rise, demand for food increases with it. With the fifth largest land mass in the world and one of the most favoured climatically—up to three crops can be grown in some areas—Brazil has plenty of scope to increase food output. Last year's 50 million tons of grain was a big step forward, but it still lags far behind the tonnages produced in the United States, Canada or even the USSR.

Patrick Knight



Cutting sugar cane in Brazil: the food import bill has been halved since 1979.

Business Diary profile: Sir Hugh Fraser and Harrods

On Saturday morning, an apprehensive staff will throng the doors at Harrods to admit the hundreds of bargain hunters who have been queuing, some for days, for the annual sale.

The jostling and grabbing that will ensue at the counters will be the odds with the serene image of this flagship of the House of Fraser group. But the scrum at Harrods may set the tone for the month for both HoF and its controversial chairman, Sir Hugh Fraser.

After the sale, Sir Hugh will resume the chairmanship of Harrods, a post he relinquished eight years ago because he was sick of dividing his time between London and HoF headquarters in Scotland. Then there is to be an extraordinary general meeting of HoF, called by Tiny Rowland's Lomro group, Lomro which owns nearly a third of HoF, disputes the wisdom of Sir Hugh's proposal to sell and lease back the D. H. Evans store in Oxford Street.

There remains also this question: is the real sale not at Harrods but of Harrods? A Lomro bid for HoF following the publication of the store group's 1980 results is the subject of continuing speculation. Critics say that in taking over at Harrods while Lomro is breathing down his neck, Sir Hugh is trying to take another step away from the gossip columns and to boost his credibility in the City.

They said the same when the Hugh Fraser Trust, founded by his father, the late Lord Fraser of Allander, bought the sacred island of Iona from the Argyl

estate "for the nation". The price was £1.2m and the trust endowed £150,000 for the maintenance of the island, now administered by the National Trust for Scotland.

Sir Hugh said at the time that the gift was a memorial to his father, though the prospecting of the forested widow may have had something to do with it.

Sir Hugh has led a much-publicized, and sometimes un-

fortunate life, both private and public, since he inherited the family firm 15 years ago at the age of 29.

There have been heavy losses at the gaming tables, once estimated at £1.5m, two broken marriages, and two years ago a woman friend was found dead in her fume-filled sports car on Sir Hugh's Loch Lomond estate.

In 1976, the Stock Exchange criticized Sir Hugh for failure

to report to Scottish & Universal Investment Trust (SUIS), which he then chaired, transactions in the shares of that company. He was later fined £600 both for this, and for failure to give a true and fair view of the Suis balance sheet for 1975 in regard to an unsecured loan of £4.2m to a property company.

Cynics have an essential place in contemporary commentary but the trouble is that they seldom get the full picture. The fact is that it takes a man of conviction and vigour, certainly valour in behaviour, to do it. First, he has ousted as chairman Robert Midgley, a man who is regarded not just in this country but worldwide as a brilliant retailer. This takes boldness. Midgley lifted the profits of Harrods from £1.6m to a record £22m during his period of control.

What Sir Hugh can bring to Harrods, if he takes enough interest, will be a buccannery spirit. Certainly guts and imagination will be needed to shake up retailing and steer it through the slump.

Some years ago Sir Hugh was approached by the three most powerful fashion journalists in the country with a plea that Harrods should be host to British Fashion Week.

Think, they said, of all those visitors admiring your beautiful store as they go up through it to the shows, or racingous or whatever and coming back next day to buy. And think of the prestige you could gain from the help you could give to the fashion industry. Sir Hugh did think, and the ladies believe to this day that

if left to himself he would have seized a marvellous entrepreneurial chance to show off Harrods. But it did not happen.

With Sir Hugh back in control, it is a fair guess that Harrods will be as alive to international style.

"What you have to remember about the House of Fraser is that it is still a feudal business", remarks an executive of rival Debenhams. And anyone who has seen the handsome laird of the group, followed at the stannary three paces behind (four, and someone will nip into the hierarchy ahead of you) by a phalanx of pin-striped suited heavyweights executives cannot doubt either his power or his charisma. Nor can there be any doubt about his ability in business, which far exceeds that of his overshadowing late father.

Scots are usually regarded as canny drapers rather than merchants of style or flair or determination to give a shop a cast iron identity. A little of everything for everyone seems safest. Also, one senses the John Knox principle that it is more proper to purvey ball-bearings than caviar and Jean Muir-Sir Hugh Fraser has none of those inhibitions.

What changes can we expect to see? First the long overdue extension of the Harrods name throughout the world. If you can do it with Gucci and Pacini and Kennerly, Fredrickson you can do it with one of the other most famous names in the world. Thirty two "boutiques" are envisaged, which will propagate about all Britishness and bestness.

Prudence Glynn



The scrum at Harrods: Sir Hugh Fraser (right), soon to be chairman of Harrods once more, and (left) Tiny Rowland, chief executive of Lomro.

Ultramar

Change of Address

Three companies in the Ultramar Group are now based at the following address (having moved from, 2 Broad Street Place, London EC2M 7EP):

Morgan House,
1 Angel Court, London EC2R 7AU
Tel: 01-726 4545

Ultramar
Company Limited
Telex: 885444



Ultramar
Exploration Limited
Ultramar
North Sea Limited
Telex: 8954630

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Stock	Price Ch'ge Gross Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price Ch'ge Gross Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price Ch'ge Gross Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price Ch'ge Gross Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price Ch'ge Gross Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company				
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Commercial property

Another kind of market for Billingsgate

Several large new developments have been announced over the turn of the year, normally a fairly slack time for property news.

An outline planning application has been submitted to the Corporation of the City of London for the future use of Billingsgate Market and the development of the adjoining car and lorry park. The existing fish market is due to move to the Isle of Dogs at the beginning of 1982 and the corporation is expected to offer the freehold interest for sale in the near future.

The joint applicants are the

London Commodity Exchange Company and John Swire and Sons, the parent company of the Swire Group. Their proposals provide for a total area of nearly 385,000 sq ft, of which about 177,000 sq ft of newly-built air-conditioned offices will be surplus to their requirements. The letting of these offices will help to offset part of the cost of development.

The London Commodity Exchange Company, which administers the "soft" commodity markets in the City, proposes to move all its operations to Billingsgate and would occupy part of the ground floor of the old building together with ground floor and basement of the new building.

John Swire and Sons would establish its London headquarters in the upper part of the old market building. If planning consent and purchase of the freehold are successfully completed, companies hope to move into the old building in 1983, and the new building not later than the middle of 1986.

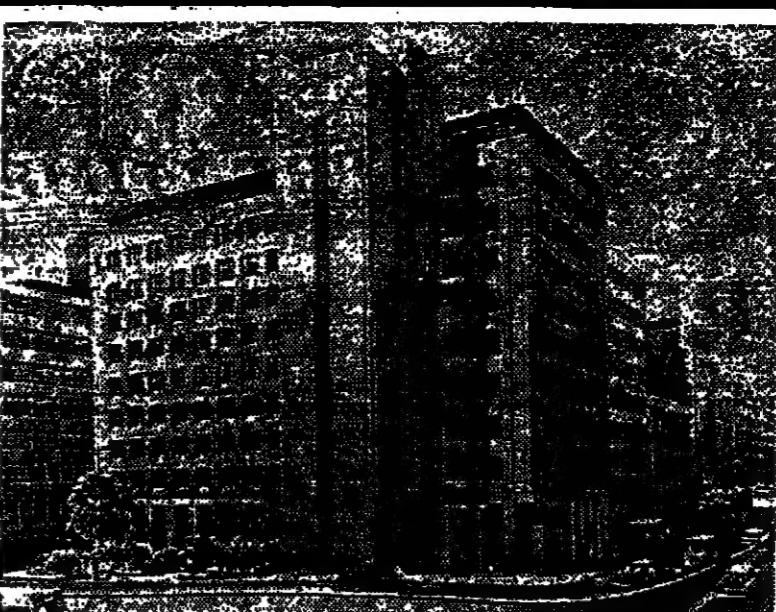
Architect for the scheme is the Whimsey Mackay-Lewis Partnership. Savills is advising John Swire and Sons, and John D. Wood is advising the London Commodity Exchange Company. In Birmingham, Norwich Union

Insurance is to develop an 11-storey air conditioned office building on the corner of Great Charles Street and Summer Row in the central area at a cost of £7.5m. It will provide some 83,000 sq ft of lettable office space, together with parking at basement level.

John Laing Construction, the main contractors, will be starting work soon and the building is due to become available for letting at the end of 1982. Edwards Bigwood and Bewlay is seeking a single tenant. Architect for the scheme is Scott Brownrigg and Turner.

A new hotel, conference and restaurant complex is proposed for Nottingham, on a site in Wollaton Street, in the central part of the city. The scheme is being carried out by Pickering Investments at a cost of £10m. IDC of Stratford-upon-Avon, is designing the complex. Construction work is due to start in April this year for completion in under two years.

The hotel, to be known as the Royal Hotel, will have 208 double and single bedrooms, with additional suites and studio rooms bringing the total up to about 240. A roof bar will give views over the city and two podium floors will contain the main restaurant and various bars and



Artist's impression of the new £7.5m office development being carried out in central Birmingham by Norwich Union Insurance.

other amenities, with a conference and banqueting centre on the ground floor. Parking for 700 cars is also planned with separate access for those not using the hotel, and a bridge link is to be provided between the new hotel and the adjacent theatre and conference centre being developed by Nottingham City Council.

In Lichfield, Staffordshire, the Viking Property Group has been appointed by the city council for redevelopment of the Redcourt House site in the central area.

It is proposed to extend the existing shopping precinct to link Bakers Lane with Tamworth Street. Plans provide for two levels of covered shopping, including a supermarket of

50,000 sq ft, 25 shops and parking for 160 cars. Construction is expected to begin this coming summer.

In the industrial sector of the property market, plans have been announced for a 16-acre site in Peartree Lane, Dudley, in the recently announced Blackbrook Valley enterprise zone, in the West Midlands. The developer is Crackley, the property investment subsidiary of the Glynwed organization. The site, which is to be developed over the next three years, will be known as the Peartree Industrial Park and will ultimately provide over 250,000 sq ft of new factory and warehouse premises to be offered for sale or let.

The first phase of the scheme, which may start in July, will comprise ten units ranging from 4,500 sq ft up to 24,500 sq ft and containing in all some 85,000 sq ft of usable floor area. Planning permission has been applied for and the architect is Peter Hing and Jones, of Birmingham. Edwards Bigwood and Bewlay, of Birmingham and London, have advised Crackley throughout and are sole letting agents.

Due to be ready for occupation next month is a new industrial scheme being carried out by St Martins Property Corporation in Wandsworth, London, SW17.

Known as the Elms Industrial Estate, the scheme is in an established industrial area at the junction of Garratt Lane and Summerstown. It will provide a total of 78,850 sq ft of space in one warehouse and three factory units, each with integral offices. Factory units are 16,600 sq ft, 17,650 sq ft and 19,700 sq ft with clear span working space.

The warehouse provides 24,900 sq ft and is planned in two bays. Letting is through Grant and Partners, who are quoting rents of £3.50 a sq ft a year exclusive.

Two small industrial or warehouse schemes are planned by the Hunting Gate group. One is in the group's headquarters town of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, where three units from 1,480 sq ft are planned on an industrial estate in Wilbury Way. The site is a former residential plot at the entrance to the estate and the units are expected to be completed in July.

The other scheme is in the county town of Bedford, where units will be from 1,356 sq ft. They will be the last phase in a Hunting Gate industrial estate off Woburn Road, Kempston. Completion here is also scheduled for July.

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